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An Analysis of General Property Tax Trends in South Dakota with Suggestions for Administrative Reform

R.B. Westbrook

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with Suggestions for Administrative Reform

By
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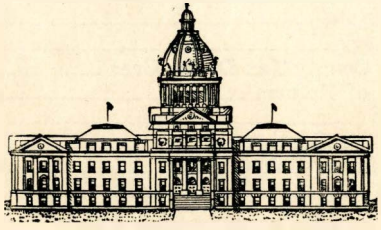

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With Suggestions For Administrative Reform

PART I

General Trend of South Dakota Valuations

The Selections of the Period

The period covered in statistically portraying changes in South Dakota's finances starts with 1915, and it has been carried down as close to the present as the publication of the Division of Taxation reports will permit. 1915 has been selected as the base year for the calculation of the index numbers and tax tables because previous changes in the state's tax laws had permitted the departure from partial valuation to "full valuation" of all property, and also because of some difficulty in interpreting the records previous to that year.

In several of the following tables and figures, little or no attempt has been made at explaining specifically increases or decreases in either valuations or taxes, for the increases and decreases are extremely variable in character and, year by year, are influenced by a host of economic variables. Anything more than to point out change or to make some general comment concerning them is practically impossible. The tables reflect the economic events occurring within the state, and these events vary somewhat from the national situation due to economic and physical causation peculiar to this region. Locally and nationally, this series of years covers two of our greatest periods of inflation, each followed immediately by a severe depression.

The Data

The first table and figure are summarizations of all property valuations, and all taxes in South Dakota from 1915 to 1934. The first column contains the valuation of all property, all real estate, rural and urban, and all personal property, tangible and intangible. The second column is the index of valuations calculated by using the 1915 total property figure as a base of 100; this given figure is then divided into the valuations of each successive year, and thus the percentage relationships of the second column are reached. The third column contains total taxes resulting from the application of varying rates, both state and local, to the property tax base for each year. The corresponding index in Column 4 is calculated in precisely the same way as the one relating to total property valuations.

Acknowledgment

The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Professor Gabriel Lundy under whose supervision this study was made. Acknowledgment is also made of valuable assistance from the author's graduate students, Mr. Adlowe Larson, Mr. Norman Strand, and Mrs. Esther Korstad. The Division of Taxation officials, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and a host of county officials have been cooperative and helpful.

Table 1.—Total Property Valuations and Total General Taxes with Indexes, South Dakota, 1915-1934.* (Base 1915=100 per cent)

Year	Valuation†	Index	Taxes	Index
1915	$1,271,604,031	100.0	$12,987,307.98	100.0
1916	1,303,500,049	102.5	14,347,171.77	110.5
1917	1,441,475,255	113.4	17,781,439.14	136.9
1918	1,598,544,562	125.7	21,470,598.99	165.3
1919	2,095,154,178	164.8	27,550,312.57	212.1
1920	2,257,853,656	177.6	35,407,912.76	272.6
1921	2,064,602,116	162.4	33,006,021.27	254.1
1922	1,977,127,560	155.5	32,724,800.88	252.0
1923	1,931,398,615	152.7	32,568,923.26	250.8
1924	1,876,112,767	147.5	33,096,640.29	254.8
1925	1,876,078,532	147.5	33,889,443.08	260.9
1926	1,805,466,033	142.0	32,905,218.72	253.4
1927	1,709,966,919	134.5	33,821,651.84	260.4
1928	1,755,062,160	138.0	35,542,351.70	273.7
1929	1,744,499,116	137.2	35,909,508.75	276.5
1930	1,689,898,995	132.9	35,028,764.48	269.7
1931	1,508,675,986	118.6	29,830,135.66	229.7
1932	1,258,591,071	99.0	27,534,049.35	212.0
1933	1,114,830,362	87.7	18,847,175.11	144.6
1934	1,059,887,747	83.4	21,680,969.54	166.9

* From annual reports of the Tax Commission and of the Division of Taxation in South Dakota.

† Valuation includes all property, even that to which state levy is not applied.

The index numbers from Table 1 have been used in making the graphic presentation of Figure 1; Column 2, containing the index of valuation is shown by the heavy line, and Column 4, the index of taxes, is shown by the lighter dotted line.

Analysis of Trends in Valuations and Taxes

An index number is nothing more than a percentage relationship of increase or decrease with one year's figure used as a base. A glance at the chart will show the tax index far above that of valuations. The rise and fall of the smaller tax figure, year by year, has been much greater in its degree of change than the fluctuations of total property values. During the early part of the period, both valuations and taxes rose, reaching a peak in 1920, with the tax index making a phenomenal rise of 272 per cent, or two and three-quarters times the amount of the base period.

Between 1920 and 1930 there is a leveling off in the tax index, the figures falling between 250 and 276. The decrease in the index after 1930 is about as rapid as the increase before 1920. This continues until 1934; the latter year being marked by a 15 per cent increase.

Since taxes increased far more rapidly than values between 1915 and 1920, and maintained a level above 250 during 1920-1930 with valuations decreasing, rates were raised rapidly. Lower valuations or only slightly increasing valuations tend to pacify the taxpayer temporarily, but high

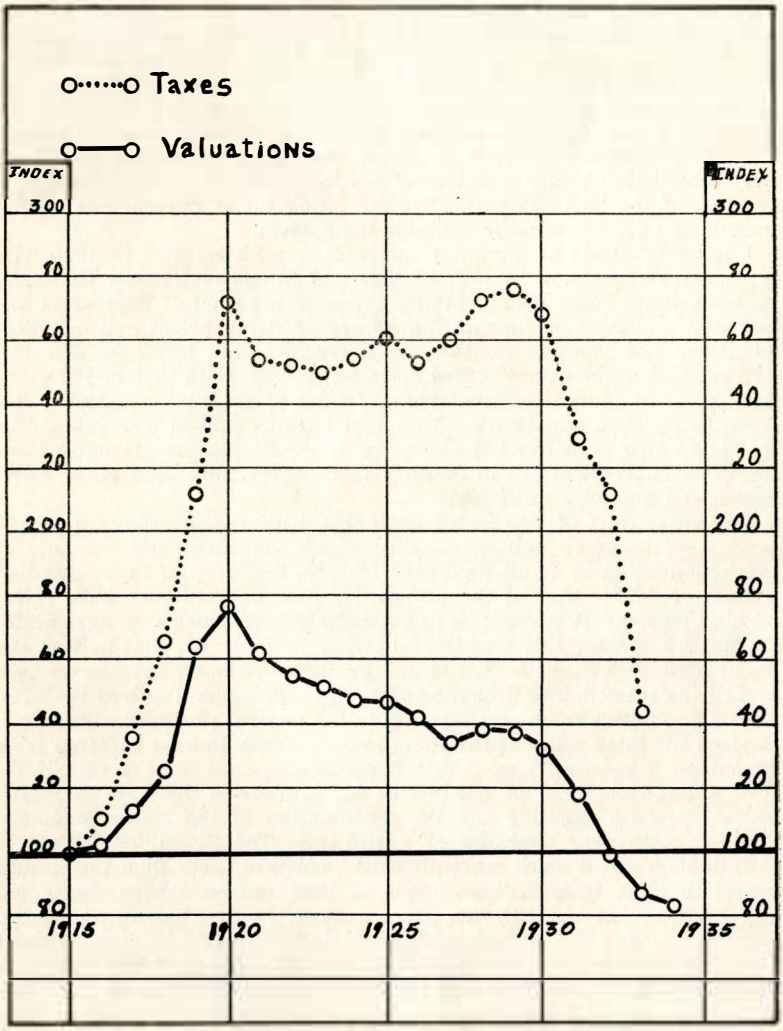

Figure 1.—Indexes of the Total Property Valuations and Total General Taxes for South Dakota, 1915-1934. Indexes derived from the Gross Figures Presented in the Previous Table. (Base 1915=100 per cent)

valuations accompanied by low rates or low valuations with high rates, may arrive at the same results. When values are relatively stable, and the rate of levy is used as the varying element, it is not so difficult for the average taxpayer to determine the cause of the shift in taxes. However, the gradual lowering of valuations in South Dakota since 1920 deserves further explanation. The tax base has been tremendously decreased due to the state, county and school districts taking over the land when it became evident that owners could not meet obligations due them. Once the transfer is made, assessments cease for most of this land and the property tax base gradually narrows. The actual disappearance of personal property from the tax rolls as people became more hard pressed financially contributed to the depletion of the tax base. Much of this is a phenomenon of the business cycle, but the piling up of government land is no doubt in part due to an inequitable tax system.

Further analysis of Figure 1 indicates a peak reached in 1920 with only a slight recession in 1921 of both valuations and taxes. Generally speaking, taxes "lag" behind falling prices in a period of depression and behave in a similar manner during an era of rising prices and inflation. Valuations and taxes in South Dakota reached high levels in 1920 and were not to a great extent forced down until 1922. Note that in 1920-1921 when prices in general, and particularly farm prices, had smashed to low levels, taxes were double what they had been in earlier war years. The state had crops to sell and the severity of the depression of 1921-22 was soon over, but agriculture in South Dakota never fully recovered. Foreclosures did not drop until 1929.

The latter part of the period beginning with 1921-22 shows a steady decrease of property values, steadily rising tax rates and amounts of taxes culminating in an all-time peak in 1929, the index of taxes standing at 276.5 or double that of the prosperous year of 1917 with high prices and high incomes. It is difficult to estimate the tax burden on agriculture in South Dakota for 1929 and the following years, or for that matter any other period, owing to the fact that farm income figures have never been carefully calculated. The drought and the grasshoppers deprived the agricultural population from participating in the general prosperity that characterized the later years of the boom period; South Dakota suffered from pronounced depression long before it became general for the rest of the country. But from 1929 on, net income for farmers in the state gradually became a minus quantity and the continuation of the above-mentioned evils has come near bankrupting agriculture. The 35 million dollars in taxes in 1930 was a much more difficult burden to carry than the similar amount in 1920. Crop failures began in 1926 and have been continuous with the exception of 1932 when prices were so low that income was slight. These facts, plus the 30 odd millions of dollars, levied in each of these years from 1927 to 1931, the respective years in which each levy was paid, account largely for the excessive tax delinquency that followed. It is conservatively estimated that the taxes are delinquent on 10 million acres.[1]

The depression had advanced to such a degree of severity by 1930, and the demands of the citizens of South Dakota became so insistent, that budgets were slashed, and the 1931 total tax was decreased by $5,275,000. By this time the shrinking values of property, together with its confiscation, had aroused public opinion. The slashing of expenditures continued,

1. Latest report from the State Planning Board, April 15, 1935.

and considerable agitation occurred to broaden the tax base to include all sources of taxpaying ability. The slashing of state expenditures has gone too far and the broadening of the tax base appears to have reached its goal as may be seen from the recent elimination of the gross income tax and the substitution of a 2 per cent net retail sales tax and a personal net income tax.

The two years 1933 and 1934 break into the continuity of the property tax trend and call for considerable explanation. The gross income tax did not disturb the steady lowering of valuations, but it eliminated the necessity for the state property tax levy. The 1932 state tax figures had amounted to $4,709,148, and the gross income tax was depended upon to act as a substitute and bring in the revenue in 1933 and 1934. The partial failure of the law to produce sufficient revenue forced up taxes in subordinate tax-levying jurisdictions in 1934. However, not all the blame should be placed upon the deficiencies of the gross income tax; a part of this increase is due to relief demands and expenditures for improvements under the public works program.

Taxes on South Dakota Agricultural Lands Compared With Total General Property Taxes 1915-1933

Taxes on South Dakota agricultural lands as presented by the Division of Taxation in the annual reports are all inclusive, for these reports relate to farms, range country, mineral lands, and lots within incorporated limits that are used for agricultural purposes.

The mineral lands included had a value of $18,107,687 in 1915[1] and $11,008,478 in 1932[2]; and agricultural lands had a valuation of $818,428,345 in 1915[1] and $760,417,486 in 1932.[2] Since the valuation of mineral lands was just 2.2 per cent of the agricultural lands in 1915 and 1.41 per cent of them in 1932, the inclusion of mineral land taxes in each year's total could not affect appreciably the index of taxes on agricultural land.

Analysis of Change and Relation of Land Taxes To General Taxes

Table 2 and Figure 2, although not entirely representative of agricultural taxes, nevertheless, give a reasonably true picture of their increase and decrease in comparison with the states total general taxes. Both indexes rise steadily until 1920 with the agricultural index, reaching 311.8 contrasted with 272.6 for the general tax index.

From 1921 to 1927 the agricultural land tax index for South Dakota remained fairly constant, although at a level of about 30 index points higher than total general taxes. After a rise leading up to a peak in 1929, the agricultural land taxes for South Dakota came down to the plane of total general taxes; even then the agricultural taxes were more than twice as high as they were in 1915. In the last year the terrific fall in both indexes is due to the introduction of the gross income tax. The indexes

1. Division of Taxation Report, 1915.
2. Division of Taxation Report, 1932.

Table 2.—Indexes of General Property Tax and Land Tax, South Dakota, 1915-1934. (Base 1915=100 per cent)

Year	South Dakota General Tax	Land Tax
1915	100.0	100.0
1916	110.5	113.1
1917	136.9	140.0
1918	165.3	174.1
1919	212.1	235.6
1920	272.6	311.4
1921	254.1	283.2
1922	252.0	292.7
1923	250.8	288.0
1924	254.8	286.0
1925	260.9	295.4
1926	253.4	263.6
1927	260.4	291.6
1928	273.7	303.1
1929	276.5	305.0
1930	269.7	291.7
1931	229.7	235.0
1932	212.0	210.0
1933	145.5	130.0

for the next year will no doubt rise considerably. When it is recognized there has been a decided lack of diversity in taxes in the state, that a large per cent of all taxes are property taxes, and that the state is fundamentally an agricultural state, then some notion of the burden on farm property can be realized. The diversification of taxes in many of the industrialized states east of the Mississippi river tends to relieve property somewhat, but diversification to the same degree is not even a possibilty in South Dakota, and to the extent that other interests do not carry the burden, a larger residue falls upon property and especially upon the agricultural property in this state.

Taxes on South Dakota Agricultural Lands—A Comparison of South Dakota Land Taxes With Other States of the West North Central Section and With the United States, 1915-1933

The following tables and figures compare the per acre burden of taxes on agricultural land and the amount of the burden on each $100 of farm valuation throughout the west North Central states and the nation from 1915 to 1933. The farm tax load for every $100 of valuation shows the state of South Dakota well in the lead of most states, and indeed this is a much more reliable indicator of the tax load than the other table calculated on a per acre basis. The calculation of a very low average per acre on some of the semi-arid land of South Dakota might be infinitely more difficult to bear than double that sum on the rich dairy and wheat acreage of Minnesota. The continued increase in the tax per $100 for the country as a whole, for the West North Central region and for South Dakota up until 1933 occurred despite a declining tax per acre after 1929.

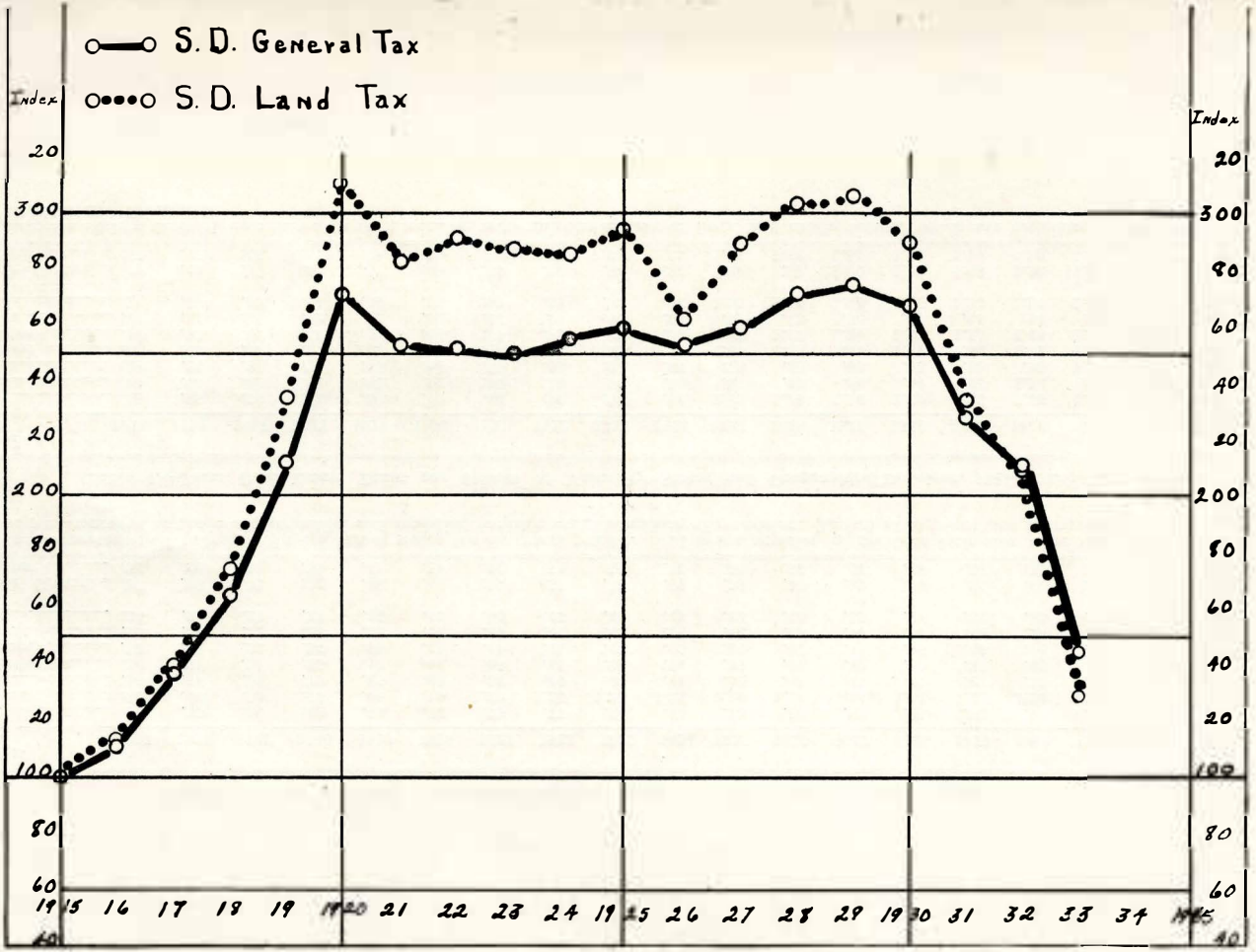

Figure 2.—Indexes of General Property Tax and Land Tax in South Dakota, 1915-1934. Indexes derived by Calculation from the Annual Reports of the Division of Taxation. (Base 1915=100 per cent)

Table 3.—Farm Real Estate Taxes per Acre by States and Geographic Divisions, 1915-1933

State & Geog. Division	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Minnesota	.35	.39	.46	.48	.64	.76	.79	.77	.84	.75	.78	.80	.81	.85	.86	.87	.84	.67	.67
Iowa	.60	.64	.74	.76	.94	1.10	1.20	1.26	1.25	1.23	1.15	1.14	1.14	1.15	1.22	1.24	1.13	1.02	.90
Missouri	.16	.16	.18	.19	.25	.28	.38	.40	.40	.41	.43	.44	.45	.47	.47	.45	.41	.37	.32
North Dakota	.20	.21	.21	.25	.43	.44	.45	.43	.38	.38	.37	.37	.39	.39	.38	.38	.33	.29	.27
South Dakota	.17	.18	.22	.26	.35	.45	.41	.41	.43	.43	.44	.44	.44	.45	.46	.44	.35	.32	.20
Nebraska	.19	.20	.22	.23	.28	.42	.47	.41	.40	.39	.42	.42	.46	.46	.45	.44	.42	.36	.30
Kansas	.23	.24	.27	.28	.35	.42	.50	.45	.48	.48	.52	.54	.56	.57	.58	.55	.53	.41	.36
West North Central	.27	.28	.32	.34	.45	.54	.59	.57	.58	.57	.58	.58	.59	.60	.61	.61	.56	.47	.42
United States	.26	.28	.31	.33	.41	.51	.54	.54	.55	.55	.56	.56	.57	.58	.58	.57	.53	.46	.39

These data represent new estimates for individual states for the years prior to 1924 and a revision of previous estimates since that year. A more adequate sample, improved methods of calculation and modified variable weights underly the revision. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 4.—Farm Real Estate Taxes per $100.00 of Value by States and Geographical Divisions, 1915-1933.

State & Geog. Division	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Minnesota	.55	.55	.58	.56	.59	.70	.83	.86	.98	.94	1.00	1.09	1.14	1.20	1.25	1.45	1.65	1.64	1.56
Iowa	.44	.45	.48	.44	.41	.52	.69	.75	.80	.83	.81	.86	.88	.90	.98	1.14	1.28	1.59	1.28
Missouri	.28	.26	.27	.26	.28	.34	.54	.58	.63	.67	.75	.80	.83	.86	.89	.98	1.06	1.17	.97
North Dakota	.61	.61	.59	.67	1.05	1.11	1.18	1.22	1.22	1.28	1.30	1.39	1.49	1.53	1.54	1.72	1.75	1.71	1.54
South Dakota	.38	.38	.43	.45	.49	.66	.71	.82	.93	.96	1.05	1.17	1.19	1.24	1.30	1.40	1.38	1.54	.96
Nebraska	.37	.37	.35	.32	.32	.52	.67	.60	.64	.65	.70	.72	.80	.80	.81	.84	.95	1.05	.85
Kansas	.51	.50	.53	.51	.56	.68	.92	.83	.94	.96	1.06	1.10	1.15	1.17	1.20	1.24	1.38	1.35	1.16
West North Central	.44	.44	.46	.44	.47	.60	.76	.76	.84	.86	.90	.96	1.00	1.02	1.08	1.20	1.31	1.36	1.20
United States	.57	.57	.58	.57	.59	.79	.94	.96	1.01	1.03	1.07	1.12	1.15	1.18	1.19	1.28	1.42	1.50	1.22

These data are derived from figures shown in the preceding table and the indexes of farm real estate values, which are estimated annually by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

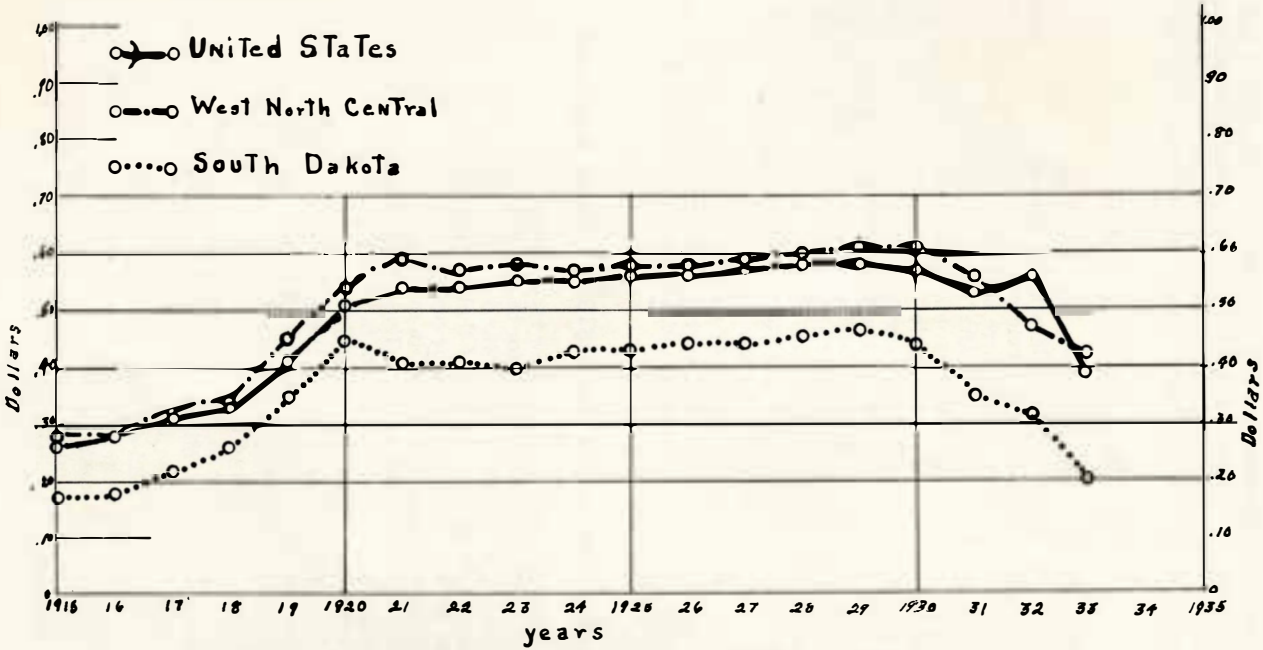

Figure 3.—Farm Real Estate Taxes per Acre for the United States, West North Central Section and South Dakota, 1915-1933. Data Obtained from the USDA, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Division of Agricultural Finance.

This is explained by the fact that 1929 to 1932 real estate values declined more rapidly than did the tax per acre. Between the times when the 1932 and 1933 levies were due, on the other hand, the decline in farm real estate values ceased, though the decline in average farm taxes continued.

The Tax Burden Per Acre

The taxes on farm real estate on a per acre basis in South Dakota gradually increased from 1915 to 1929 arriving at a peak of .46 cents in 1929. In no single year during the whole period are the taxes per acre in the state above the average tax per acre in the West North Central group. Moreover, this per acre burden in South Dakota is definitely below that of the average for the United States, but this is not significant where other factors are considered. (See Table 3 and Figure 3). From 1915 to 1929 the average for South Dakota increased to 270.7 per cent over 1915, falling to 188.3 per cent by 1932. Throughout the United States, the increase amounted to 223.8 in 1928, remaining the same for 1929, and falling to 215.4 in 1932. In the West North Central area, the peak was reached in 1929 and remained the same in 1930 at 61 cents per acre, indicating an increase of 225.9 per cent over 1915 for these respective years, followed by a decrease to 174.1 per cent in 1932.

Taxes per acre in the West North Central states before 1929 more than doubled. The sharp drop that has occurred since this year is due to acute distress among farm taxpayers. Rates or values or both have been reduced for the whole area.

The Tax Burden for Each $100 of Farm Valuation

Table 4, Page 14, also Figure 4, show that in 1915, taxes amounted to 57 cents on each $100 of farm valuation for the United States. By 1929 it had increased to $1.19. In the second post-war depression, land values fell more rapidly than did taxes with the result that in 1932 farm taxes amounted to $1.50 per $100 of farm valuation or nearly three times as much as in 1915. Throughout the country, farms in ever-increasing numbers became tax delinquent. A great part of the delinquency followed the severe drop in farm prices and income in 1929 and later, but a significant increase in tax delinquency was evident before 1927.*

In the West North Central States there has been a consistent increase in tax burden per $100 of value by states between 1915 and 1933. Beginning with 1915 taxes per acre for every $100 of valuation amount to 44 cents, increasing to a peak of $1.36 in 1932, with the percentage increase over the period amounting to 301.1. In every state the burden has more than doubled and in Iowa, Missouri and South Dakota the increase has been considerably more than this.

In South Dakota the 1915 average was 38 cents increasing to $1.30 by 1929, $1.40 in 1930, $1.38 in 1931 and an all time peak of $1.54 in 1932 before decreasing to 96 cents in 1933. The percentage increase by 1929 was 342.1, in 1930, 368.4 and in 1932 to 405.3. From 1920 this increase in taxes was accompanied by decreasing land values.

* Yearbook of Agriculture for 1934, page 65.

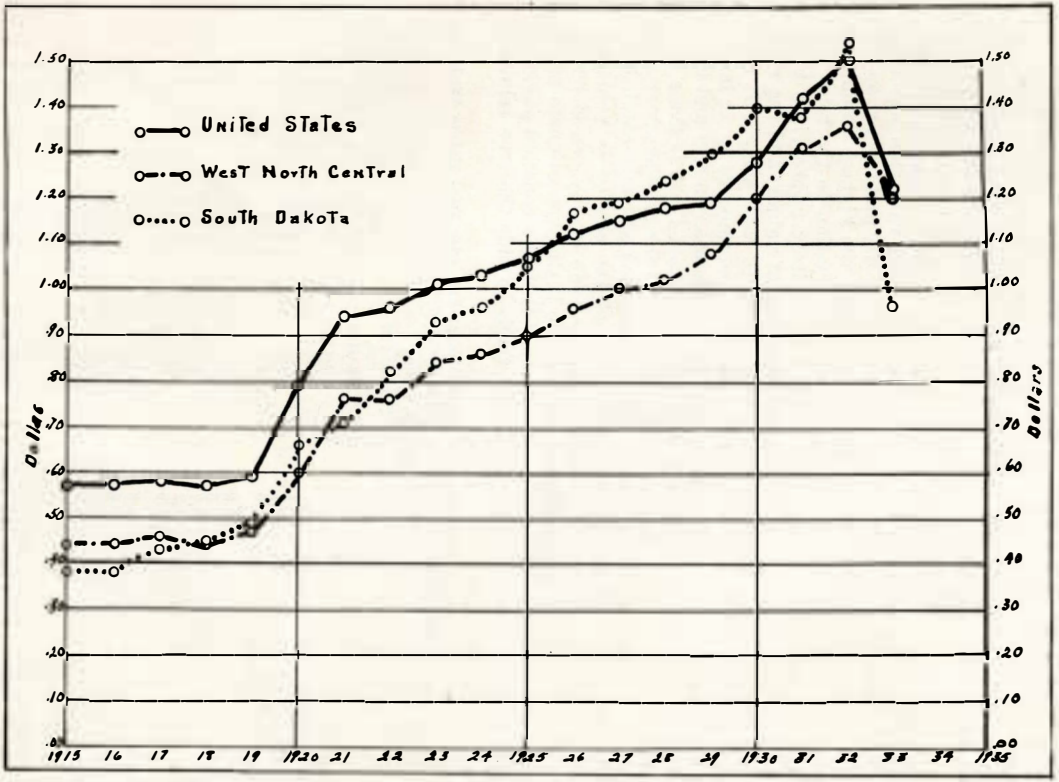

Figure 4.—Farm Real Estate Taxes per $100 of Valuation for the United States, West North Central Section and South Dakota, 1915-1933. Data obtained from the USDA, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Division of Agricultural Finance.

Comparison of Agricultural Land Values With City and Town Property

In Table 5, the absolute figures on the valuations of agricultural lands and city real estate have been reduced to index numbers and to the percentage that each bears to total property valuations. Using 1915 again as the base period, the greatest valuation of agricultural land occurred in 1920 with an index of 186.8, but the percentage of agricultural land valuation as compared with total valuation reached its height in 1923 with a percentage figure of 70.9. Since these two peaks were reached, the decrease in both agricultural land valuation and total valuation has been quite consistent. The variations in the valuations of city and town property differ from those of agricultural property in that the highest valuations occurred in 1930 and the percentage of urban valuation to the total has consistently increased. A word of caution is entirely appropriate here. The table merely shows the increase or decrease of values, and the relative importance of agricultural and urban values to total values. It does indicate that in an agricultural state the property tax must be borne largely by agriculture. It does not signify that the tax burden on city and town property is proportionally lighter, as a matter of fact there is some hint that the reverse is true in the later years. From the evidence presented here, it, in general, appears that urban property has at times carried too small a proportion of the burden; but much of the change in valuation is due to changing economic conditions rather than to any conscious attempt on the part of urban interests to escape their proportionate share of taxes. Furthermore, it is well to remember that the constant juggling of rates in rural and urban environments tends to hide the true relationship.

Table 5.—Index Numbers of Valuations of Agricultural and City Real Estate With the Percentages Each Bears to Total Property Valuations.*

Year	Agricultural Lands		City and Town Lots	
	Index Number	Per cent of S. Dak. Valuation	Index Number	Per cent of S. Dak. Valuation
1915	100.0	64.4	100.0	9.1
1916	101.7	63.9	103.0	9.2
1917	113.1	64.2	110.1	7.5
1918	125.1	64.1	113.7	8.3
1919	166.5	65.1	126.9	7.0
1920	186.8	68.5	134.7	6.9
1921	176.5	70.0	132.9	7.5
1922	170.7	70.6	131.6	7.7
1923	168.2	70.9	147.7	8.8
1924	159.6	69.6	141.0	8.7
1925	159.5	69.6	142.4	8.8
1926	152.2	69.0	142.0	9.1
1927	143.5	68.7	144.1	9.8
1928	143.3	66.8	150.2	10.0
1929	141.5	66.4	150.0	10.0
1930	134.9	65.3	151.3	10.4
1931	114.4†	62.0	150.4	11.6
1932	92.9†	60.4	138.6	12.8
1933	82.5†	60.5	121.5	12.7
1934‡	77.4†	59.8	118.7	13.0

* Derived from valuations (including structures) in annual report of Division of Taxation in South Dakota for 1933.

† Including outlots.

‡ Derived from valuations in news item of Sioux Falls Argus Leader for August 28, 1934.

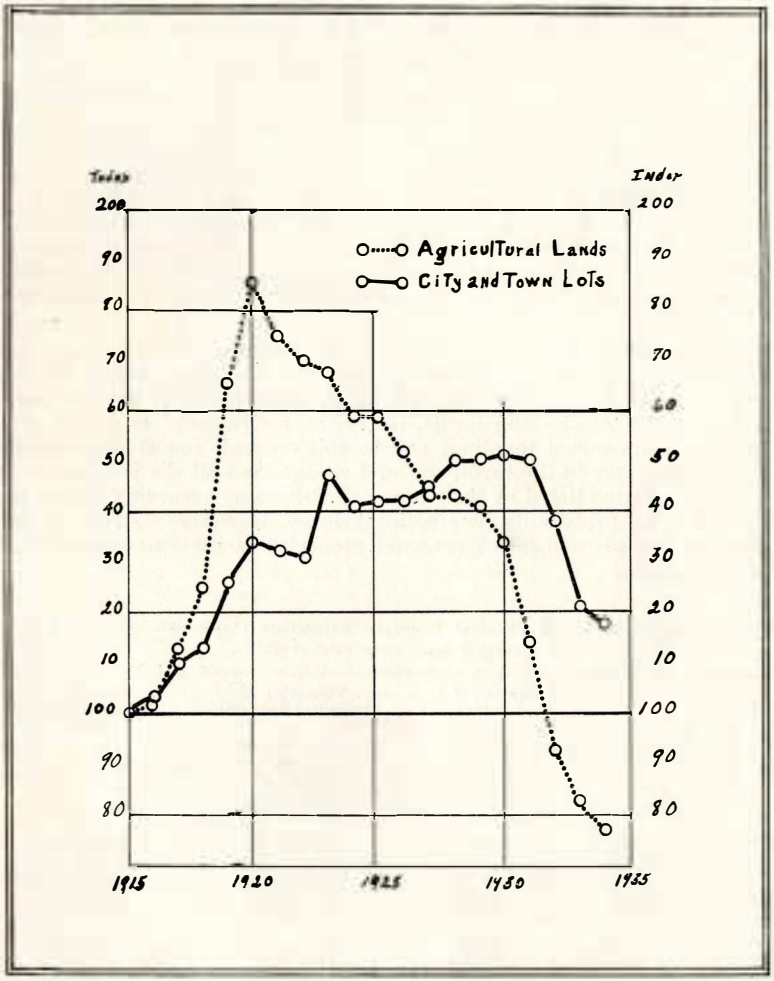

Figure 5.—Index Numbers of Valuation of Agricultural Lands and City and Town Lots, 1915-1934.

The Comparison of Trends in Real Estate Valuations and Personal Property

Relationship Between Valuations

Table 6 and Figure 6 contain the year-by-year valuations of all real estate and all tangible and intangible personal property, both urban and rural, in South Dakota from 1915 to 1934. All personal property is included in the third column of the table up until 1919. The intangible items are carried separately after the enactment and enforcement of the money and credits law. The valuations for real estate, plotted in the figure fol-

lowing, form much the same curve that all property valuations and land valuations did in the preceding figure, but in the case of the separation of tangible and intangible valuations, the results are that the total of personal property valuation becomes much greater. Evidently the new law at its initiation was quite successful. After 1920 all valuations decrease, but note how the personal property curves draw closer together toward the close of the period and the spread between the two gradually narrows. There are just two possible explanations for this—one is that the owners of the intangibles are not listing their property for tax purposes, and the other is that as people become hard pressed financially, the property expressed in the form of contractual rights is sold first, because of its liquidity. Hence, the intangible tax base decreases faster than that of concrete personal property.

The relationship between all personal property and all real estate valuations is an interesting one. Certainly for the whole period the personal property is not over one-fifth of the real estate. If all the money on deposit, all stocks and bonds, all credit instruments of any kind or character were added together, and to this sum all conceivable tangible personal property in the town, city and village, and all the personal property on the farms listed at their true and full value according to our law, it would in all probability be startingly large. However, there is no such valuation and assessment of personal property, tangible or intangible, in South Dakota.

Table 6.—Real Estate and Personal Property Valuations (Intangible personal property carried separately after 1918.)

Year	Valuation of Real Estate	Valuation of Personal Property	Valuation of Money & Credits
1915	952,820,234	180,234,684*	
1916	970,039,106	194,934,224*	
1917	1,070,169,237	234,025,494*	
1918	1,172,709,171	288,470,232*	
1919	1,526,147,768	320,308,322	110,896,049†
1920	1,718,998,353	300,243,542	104,673,631†
1921	1,611,299,169	235,981,410	79,747,567†
1922	1,561,836,667	212,615,469	65,833,151†
1923	1,560,387,303	170,636,648	73,169,434†
1924	1,481,680,859	191,730,007	71,387,337
1925	1,481,969,656	189,132,144	77,162,884
1926	1,420,768,023	179,860,498	74,036,542
1927	1,351,975,859	164,759,400	69,742,660
1928	1,358,405,545	192,625,706	81,054,747
1929	1,342,524,184	195,500,529	81,086,808
1930	1,289,830,850	194,587,490	77,806,468
1931	1,121,708,363	171,462,903	74,784,592
1932	932,556,012	132,208,303	62,869,612
1933	827,033,685	118,395,450	54,091,872
1934	785,751,154	111,149,229	47,675,553

*Money and Credits included in Personal Property. Source: Annual Reports Tax Commission and Division of Taxation, 1915-1934.

†Money and Credits assessed for years 1919-1923 inclusive at a rate of three mills on the dollar and from 1924 on at four mills on the dollar.

NOTE: Apportionment of money and credits tax—one-fourth to state, one-half to the county, one-fourth to the School District.

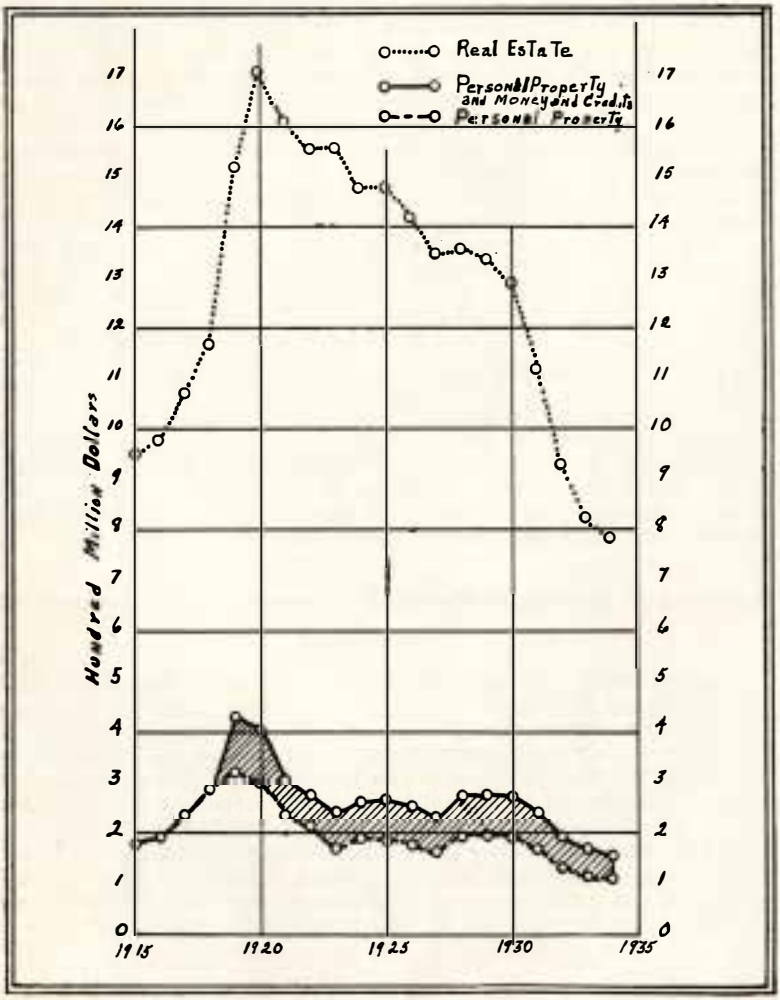

Figure 6.—Valuations of Real Estate and Personal Property in South Dakota, 1915-1934. Until 1918 Personal Property and Money and Credits were Classified as one Item. After 1918 they were Separated and are so Shown on the Diagram. The Shaded Area is the Valuation of Money and Credits.

Criticism of the Assessment of Tangible Personal Property

The taxation of property rights is a more or less unsolved problem all over the United States, but not all the difficulties lies with this class of personalty. In South Dakota there is very little attempt really to assess concrete personal objects. The author discovered after looking over hundreds of assessor's books over a ten-year period and in twenty different counties, that most tangible personal property objects belonging to a given class were assessed exactly alike. For example, all tractors in one township were valued at $50 regardless of age. Every piano in another township was listed at $35. Different figures were selected for different classes of personalty in different townships, but every object within a given class tended to be valued exactly the same regardless of age or condition. The assessment of personal property is extremely poor to begin with and the lapse of time between the assessor's visit and the time of payment permits much of it to escape. For instance, when the assessment is made in the spring of 1935, the first half of the tax on this valuation is due and payable May 1, and the second half November 1, in 1936. Mobility is the essential legal characteristic of this class of property, and such a gap in time permits its escape for taxing purposes. The appointment of a county assessor with permanent tenure would assist materially in the better assessment of personal property and the drawing together of assessment and collection dates is certainly a possibility. With proper attention, industry and diligence, the task of assessing tangible personal property should present no greater difficulties than are encountered in the administration of a tax on land, incomes, or estates.

Taxation of Intangible Personal Property—What Other States Have Done

It is particularly desirable in South Dakota that the intangible property should carry its full share of the tax burden because failure to do so would increase the tax burden on agricultural land. If one class of property does not carry its fair share, another class must assume the additional load. The Model Tax Plan published in the National Tax Association reports advocates exemption of all intangibles from the property tax, and the taxation of income therefrom along with other personal incomes under an income tax. Some states leave the whole task up to the assessors under the general property tax laws, but most states now have a low rate intangible tax law to tempt the owners of these elusive credit instruments to unlock the safety deposit boxes and list these instruments for tax purposes.

PART II

Tax Trends in State, County, School Districts, Townships, Cities and Towns

Introduction

The organization of the bulletin divides it into two distinct sections. The fore part deals with very general state wide data on valuations and taxes chiefly within the state, but comparisons of tax burdens with other states and with the country as a whole were made by using United States Department of Agriculture data. Marked increases and decreases and unusual relationships of values and taxes have been pointed out, general explanations made, and conclusions inferred where the contents of the tables and charts were sufficiently specific to warrant them.

The latter part of the bulletin is based entirely upon the tax extensions of the state and upon the subordinate tax-levying jurisdictions within the state. Each governing district has its special tax problems and the administration of the public finances of the smaller districts is particularly trying and difficult to solve, but perhaps not more so than many other economic problems, individual and social, that baffle us day by day.

General Tax Trends in all Tax-Levying Jurisdictions

Tables 7 and 8 together with Figures 7, 8, and 9 give a complete picture of the trends of taxation in the various taxing units for the period 1915-1934. The gross figures of Table 7 (1915 used as the base or 100 per cent) have been used to calculate the index numbers of Table 8. The tables were in turn used as the basis for Figures 7 and 8. Figure 7 is a cumulative presentation of the gross tax figures for the period. For example, the amount for each given year was added to the city and town allotment and the resulting amount plotted. In turn the school district allotment was added to the sum of the city and township allotments. County allotments were next added and finally the state allotment so that the final curve plotted is the accumulation of the gross tax for all the tax-levying jurisdictions in the state.

School Districts Levy Largest Gross Tax

A glance at Figure 7 will disclose the fact that the school districts levy the greater share of the gross tax. Tax revenues close to $4,000,000 were required to operate the schools of the state in 1915. This figure rose to $13,134,387 in 1920 and remained fairly constant for the decade at a figure of approximately $14,000,000. The school districts evidently require almost as much tax support as the counties, townships and cities combined. In keeping with the other units of the government the school district taxes were materially cut after 1930.

Table 7.—Tax Extensions by Taxing Districts, 1915-1934.

Year	State	County	School District	Townships	Cities and In-Corp. Towns	Total General Taxes
1915	$1,268,269.07	$ 4,025,572.76	$ 4,651,258.63	$1,241,762.07	$1,800,445.45	$12,987,387.98
1916	1,303,817.71	4,496,760.10	5,098.287.95	1,489,445.74	1,958,861.27	14,347,171.77
1917	2,163,573.96	5,640,997.01	5,837,547.86	1,736,430.69	2,402,889.62	17,781,439.14
1918	3,036,722.02	7,100,254.40	6,826,341,57	1,994,634.89	2,512,646.11	21,470,598.99
1919	3,755,203.06	9,326,666.32	8,900,548.74	2,294,915.10	3,272,979.35	27,550,312.57
1920	3,910,725.90	11,369,465.99	13,134,387.29	2,852,534.50	4,140,799.08	35,407,912.76
1921	3,243,641.93	8,805,522.47	13,920,888.59	2,526,857.46	4,509.110.82	33,006,021.27
1922	3,683,021.05	8,462,339.46	14.402,155.78	2,200,416.91	3,976,867.68	32,724,800.88
1923	3,608,318.69	8.724,148.46	14.252,655.19	2,054,961.47	3,928,839.46	32,568,923.26
1924	4,438,299.81	8,576,954.91	14,192,944.71	1,870,697.63	4,017,743.23	33,096,640.29
1925	4,981,484.65	8,433,139.00	14,484,299.13	2,009,882.18	3,980,638.12	33,889,443.08
1926	4,803,841.89	7,782,620.11	14,476,826.60	1,936.804.09	3,905,126.03	32,905,218.72
1927	4,429,446.85	9,075,001.60	14,526,433.78	1,836,988.99	3,953,780.62	33,821,651.84
1928	5,348,112.30	9,388,854.97	14,795,300.15	1,986,608.64	4,023,475.64	35,542,351.70
1929	5,263,244.22	9,485,730.54	14,990,987.40	2,097,116.69	4,072,419.90	35,909,508.75
1930	5,074,394.85	8,679,409.22	14,937,280.79	2,232,710.09	4,104,969.43	35,028,764.48
1931	4,857,680.48	6,715,341.23	13,514,235.65	1,227,413.05	3,515,465.25	29,830,135.66
1932	4,790,470.11	6,968,582.73	11,714,350.25	800,898.66	3,259,747.60	27,534,049.35
1933		6,794,486.82	8,336,470.60	489,519.00	3,193,108.63	18,897,175.11
1934		7,103.481.56	10,398,517.56	632,411.48	3,498,898.23	21,633,328.83

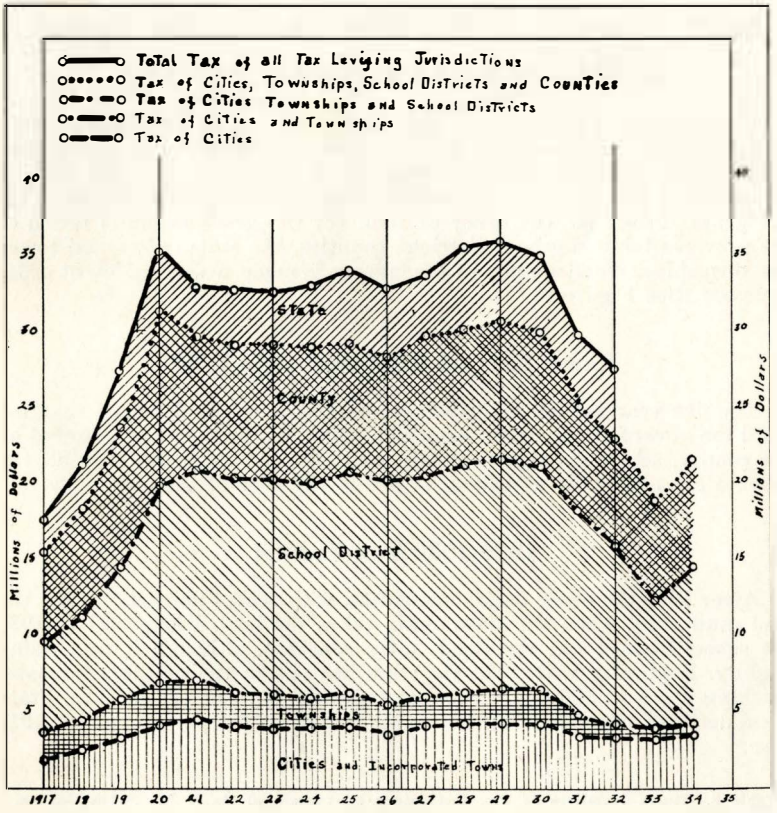

Figure 7.—Cumulative Tax Extensions of the Five Tax-Levying Jurisdictions, 1915-1934.

The County, Second Largest Levy

The counties rank second to the school districts in gross taxes levied. (See Figure 7). The state and cities and towns appear to vie for third place with the townships last. In absolute amounts levied, the county taxes are far greater than those for state purposes, but they remain more nearly constant after 1921, while state taxes, continue to increase.

The State Levy Shows the Greatest Increases

While the state levy ranks third in gross amount, nevertheless it shows a greater increase and also more fluctuations than any of the other units. In 1915 the state levy was $1,268,269. It had reached $5,348,112 in 1929 and had only receded to $4,790,470 by 1932 when the state levy was superseded by the gross income tax. The increases and decreases in taxes of the various units are shown more clearly by means of index numbers, and these have been plotted in Figure 8. Figure 9 bears out the statement that the state levy shows the greatest increase, and also that while it declined after 1928 it was at a decreasing rate.

Index Numbers of Tax Extensions of the Taxing Jurisdictions as a Basis for Analysis

The indexes of taxation for the various taxing jurisdictions portray increases and decreases in a more clear-cut way than the gross amounts. With this in mind, the gross amounts for 1915 were used as the base of 100 per cent and the indexes calculated for each of the jurisdictions for the years 1915-1934. The order of rank for the gross amounts levied in the previous table is school districts, counties, the state, cities and towns and townships. When a study of the indexes is made, a very different order appears. (See Figure 8)

Rapid Rise of All Units 1915-1920

The five-year period, 1915-1920, is marked by a rapid rise of taxation in all the governmental units, the lead being taken by the state followed by the county, school district, township, and city and town. By 1920 all tax indexes are above 225 extending to 308 in the case of the state levy.

1920-1930 Tax Trends

After 1920 the order varies somewhat, with school districts taking the lead until 1924, when the state again takes the lead. From 1921 to 1930 the school district tax remained fairly constant, although it was rising slightly. Beginning with 1923 the state has shown the greatest increase, reaching highs of 396 in 1925 and the all-time high of 412 in 1928. State taxes declined after 1928 but they never fell below 378 per cent of the 1915 base.

Table 8.—Index Numbers of Tax Extensions by Classes of Taxes for South Dakota, 1915-1934.

Year	State	Counties	School Districts	Organized Townships	Cities and Towns	Total General Tax
1915	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1916	102.8	111.7	109.6	119.9	108.8	110.5
1917	170.6	140.1	125.5	139.8	133.5	136.9
1918	239.4	176.4	146.8	160.6	139.6	165.3
1919	296.1	231.7	191.4	184.8	181.8	212.1
1920	308.4	282.4	282.4	229.7	230.0	272.6
1921	255.8	218.7	299.3	203.5	250.4	254.1
1922	290.4	210.2	309.6	177.2	220.9	252.0
1923	284.5	216.7	306.4	165.5	218.2	250.8
1924	350.0	213.1	305.1	150.6	223.2	254.8
1925	392.8	209.5	311.4	161.9	221.1	260.9
1926	378.8	193.3	311.2	156.0	216.9	253.4
1927	349.3	225.4	312.3	147.9	219.6	260.4
1928	421.7	233.2	318.1	160.0	223.5	273.7
1929	415.0	235.6	322.3	168.9	226.2	276.5
1930	400.1	215.6	321.1	179.8	228.0	269.7
1931	383.0	166.8	290.6	98.8	195.3	229.7
1932	377.7	173.1	251.9	64.5	181.1	212.0
1933		168.8	179.2	39.4	177.4	145.5
1934		176.5	223.5	50.9	194.3	166.6

Comparison of the Indexes of the Various Taxing Jurisdictions With the Total General Levy

The index of the total general tax in keeping with the indexes of the various units made a rapid rise from 1915-1920 when it reached the peak of 276. It never went above that point and reached it again only in 1929. From 1920 to 1930 it varies between 250 and 276. State and county levies are above the total tax trend from 1915 to 1920, with school districts, townships, and cities and towns below. 1920 seems to mark the division point where school districts and state levies are above, and continue above, the total tax trend for the remainder of the period. The index of counties and cities and towns fluctuate during this period but remain at a level somewhat above 200. The townships fell rapidly below 200 after 1921 and are below the 1915 base in 1931-1934. It is rather interesting to note that the 1934 indexes are all up again.

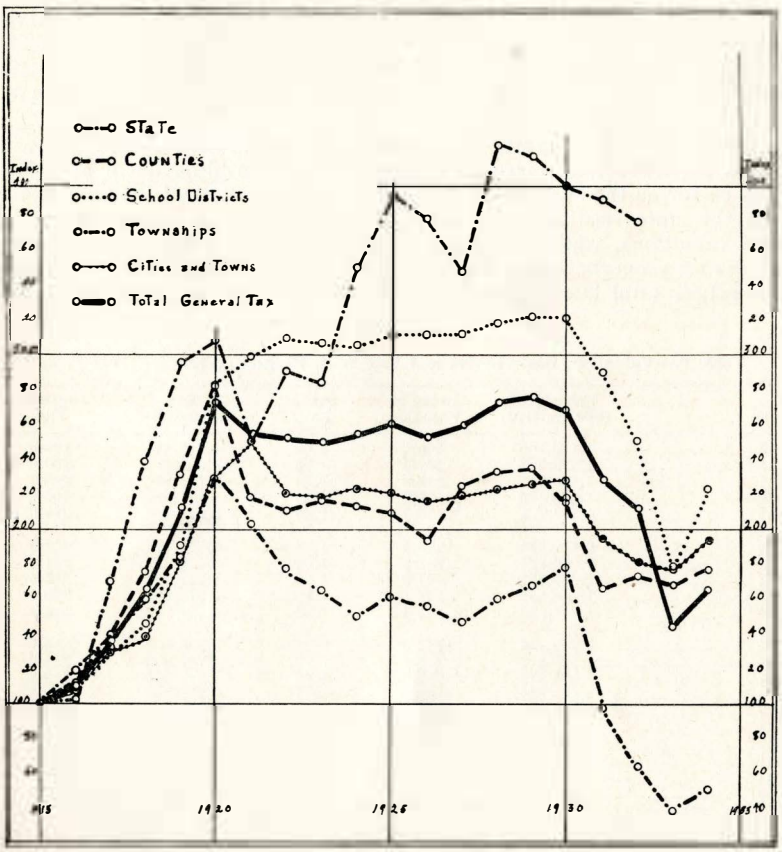

Figure 8.—Indexes of Tax Extensions 1915-1934. A Comparison of the Indexes of the Various Taxing Jurisdictions with the Index of the Total General Tax.

The Levy for State Purposes
Analysis of Valuations and Taxes

Table 9 and Figure 9 contain all that valuation of property upon which the state levy is applied, with the resulting total taxes. The index of valuation and the index of taxes portray increases and decreases in terms of the usual 1915 base year. Taxes for state purposes have varied more than for any of the subordinate tax-levying jurisdictions. From a state total of $1,268,269.07 in 1915 they increased to $5,348,112.30 in 1928, a sum slightly more than four times as great. The state levy disappeared with the coming of the gross income tax law, which was expected to provide ample funds. In 1915 the state tax was 9.8 per cent of the total general taxes which were $12,987,307.98; in 1928 it was 15 per cent of the total general tax of $35,542,351. Over the period the state tax has increased much more rapidly than the total tax.

Figure 9 shows that the state tax has almost a constant or straight line increase between 1916 and 1919 when compared to the 1915 base. The annual percentage increase was 66 per cent in 1917, 40 per cent in 1918, and 24 percent in 1919, so that taxes were actually increasing at a decreasing rate during the period.

From 1920 the property valuations were consistently lower. There is something more than mere psychology in this crowding down of valuations so far as the subordinate jurisdictions are concerned. For any given year the state rate is fixed, and if a subordinate district can lower its total valuations, while its neighboring district remains the same or increases its property values, the rate applied to this latter base will result in a larger total tax being shifted to the other district. In other words,

Table 9.—Valuation, State Levies and Tax With Respective Indexes, 1915-1933.

Year	Valuation* (000 omitted)	Index of Valuation	State Levy	Tax (000 omitted)	Index of Tax
1915	1,263,999	100.0	1.00	1,266,021	100.0
1916	1,299,527	102.8	1.00	1,301,415	102.8
1917	1,439,907	113.9	1.50	2,160,096	170.6
1918	1,595,716	126.2	1.90	3,031,935	239.5
1919	1,981,732	156.8	1.85	3,665,945	289.6
1920	2,150,054	170.1	1.78	3,827,399	302.3
1921	1,986,623	157.2	1.60	3,178,830	251.1
1922	1,908,922	151.0	1.90	3,627,220	286.5
1923	1,866,449	147.7	1.90	3,546,383	280.1
1924	1,801,508	142.5	2.42	4,359,726	344.4
1925	1,795,052	142.0	2.73	4,895,128	386.7
1926	1,727,599	136.7	2.73	4,719,808	372.8
1927	1,634,275	129.3	2.66	4,348,336	343.5
1928	1,669,656	132.1	3.15	5,258,709	415.4
1929	1,657,625	131.1	3.12	5,171,841	408.5
1930	1,606,974	127.1	3.10	4,981,645	393.5
1931	1,414,510	111.9	3.37	4,766,939	376.5
1932	1,177,020	93.1	4.00	4,709,148	372.0
1933†	1,043,285	82.5	None	None	

* Does not include money and credits and telephone property outside corporate limits.

† The gross income tax displaced the state levy.

Source: Annual Reports of Tax Commission and Division of Taxation, 1915-1934.

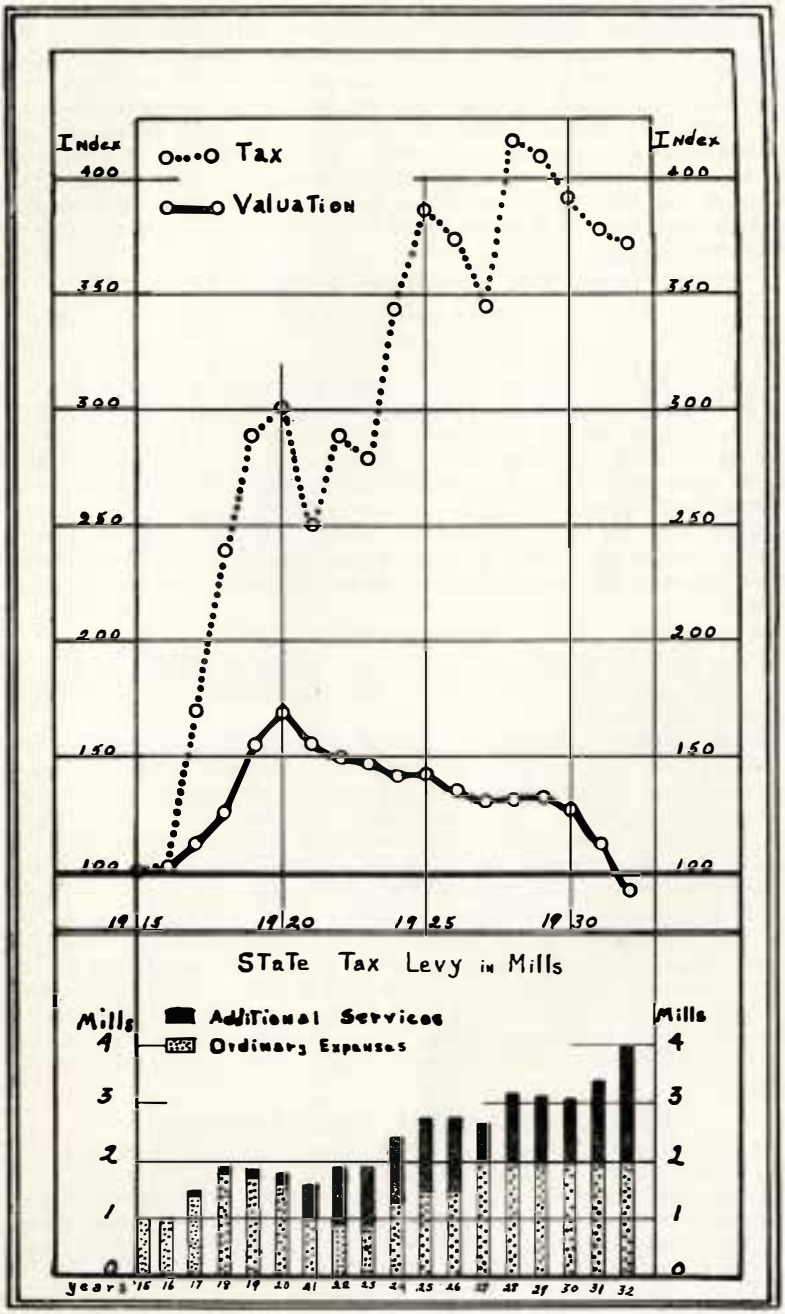

Figure 9.—Index Numbers for State Valuation and State Tax, 1915-1932.
Figure 9a.—The State Levy in Mills, 1915-1932.

unequal reductions or increases in valuations among the counties result in some jurisdictions assuming more than their proportionate share of the state tax while others bear less than their proportionate share of burden. Table 9 and Figures 9 and 9a, give a true picture of what happened. The index reached its peak in 1928, some 400 per cent above 1915 and 1916. The years 1928, 1929 and 1930 with their corresponding taxes were accompanied by an index of 415.4, 408.5, 393.5, respectively. The taxes of the above-mentioned years were probably among the most burdensome, owing to crop failures, falling prices and lowering incomes. This is particularly true when it is remembered that these taxes were collected in 1930, 1931 and 1932.

Gross Income Tax Substitutes for the Property Tax

The appearance of the gross income tax law cuts the table short and marks the elimination of the state general property tax. This gross income tax has been very disappointing, from the standpoint of revenue, and the law will pass out of existence July 1, 1935. The original bill followed the law of Indiana, but some good points were omitted, and some weak ones that the Indiana law did not have were incorporated. Changes were made when the original bill passed through the legislature and the effectiveness of the gross income tax was greatly hampered by the decision of the South Dakota Supreme Court in the case of Botkin vs Welsh, Director of Taxation, in which the Court found it was not a gross income tax of any sort, but rather an excise tax upon business, professions, and pursuits within the state. The court further held that interstate business was not taxable.

The State Rate

Table 10, from the Division of Taxation, divides the state rate into its component parts and explains at a glance the reasons for the rapid increase in the state rate.

Until 1916 a one-mill levy took care of the state ordinary expenses, but beginning with 1917, all the additional levies have been added. An examination of these rates under each of the separate headings in Table 10 impresses one with the fact that individually they seem rather small. However, a careful consideration of the first column of figures shows that the state millage to meet ordinary expenses exactly doubled, that the State Rural Credit millage more than doubled in five years, and the State Highway Sinking Fund figures show an increase of over 2000 per cent during its eight year period. All the remaining levies show large percentage increases. There is only one real explanation for all this, and that is the insistent demand on the part of the citizens of this state for more and better public services. When Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, farm organizations, civic leagues, and other bodies start demanding the elimination of public services, then, and only then, will the burden of taxes be lessened.

Changes in County Tax Extensions

In 1915 the county taxes were 30 per cent of the total general taxes. (See Tables 7 and 8 and Figures 7 and 8). By 1920, which was the peak year, the county taxes became 32.1 per cent of total taxes. In 1923 it had slid back to 26.8 per cent. It changed little up to 1929 and for this latter year there was little change. 1933 totals of 6,794,486.82 mark the lowest point since 1915 with its total of $4,025,572.76.

Table 10.—Yearly State Tax Levies in Mills for Various Purposes Since Tax Commission Law Was Enacted.

Year	Ordinary Expenses	State Rural Credit Fund Chap. 187 1927	State Highway	State Bridge	State Highway Sinking	State Land Settlement Interest & Sinking	Internal Improvement Bonds	Soldiers' Compensation Bonds	Total
	Mills	Mills	Mills	Mills	Mills	Mills	Mills	Mills	Mills
1913	1.								1.
1914	1.								1.
1915	1.								1.
1916	1.								1.
1917	1.4		.1						1.5
1918	1.8		.1						1.9
1919	1.7		.1		.03	.02			1.85
1920	1.6		.1		.06	.02			1.78
1921	1.		.1	.1	.35	.05			1.60
1922	.9			.1	.47	.06	.02	.35	1.90
1923	.9			.1	.51	.07	.12	.20	1.90
1924	1.3			.1	.52	.10	.10	.30	2.42
1925	1.5			.1	.61	.10	.10	.32	2.73
1926	1.5			.1	.61	.09	.10	.33	2.73
1927	2.			.1		.095	.11	.355	2.66
1928	2.	.60		.1			.10	.35	3.15
1929	2.	.60		.1			.07	.35	3.12
1931	2.	.81		.1				.37	3.10
1930	2.	.63		.1				.46	3.37
1932	2.	1.35						.65	4.00
1933									
1934									

NOTE: Chapter 19, Section 5, of the Laws passed at the Special Session of the Twentieth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, 1927, makes provision for State Highway Interest and Sinking Fund from the Gasoline Tax.

Summarizing from 1915 to 1920, the general trend of county taxes was upward with a peak of over eleven million in 1920. The following year the total figure fell to $8,805,522.47, but from 1921 to 1929 the state total county taxes have remained relatively stable. After 1929 there is a large absolute decline with the low point in 1933. Evidently, the reduction in 1933 was entirely too much without the anticipated assistance from the gross income tax.

Where the County Tax Dollar Goes

The continuous slashing of county expenditures with an eye to tax reduction is not always as practical as it appears. County indebtedness in 1932 totaled over eight million, which necessitated a reasonable interest and sinking fund. Provisions for the salary of county officials must be made. Support of the insane, Custer Sanatorium patients, mothers' pensions and other forms of relief have increased rather than decreased. The courts must be maintained, and we cannot get along without our roads and bridges. All in all, there is a very decided limit to the elimination of expenditures under our present organization. There are several things, however, than can be done by way of improvement to county organization and administration that would actually mean improved service at less expense.

Before measures of reform are mentioned it may be wise to review certain points with reference to these governing units. To begin with, the county is thoroughly decentralized in administrative authority; it is a form of business organization with no responsible head. The county commissioners have some executive authority and the remainder resides with the various independent offices. Terms of office are short, and four years is about the maximum of tenure. It is common knowledge among county officials that it takes about this period to become thoroughly conversant with the details that the offices entail. The lack of centralized authority and permanent tenure of office accounts for many of the deficiencies and much of the waste in county administration.

Possibility of Reform in Organization and Administration

Considerable change and improvement is possible in our present county government. Much responsibility might well be centralized to advantage in the auditor's office. At present, his duties are now probably too numerous for him to properly attend, but personnel was never cheaper than at present. He might as well be the county purchasing agent ,and all supplies could profitably be purchased by him. Any private corporation would pursue this policy quickly. Each county office now purchases its own supplies, which accounts for high operating costs. Not only the purchase of general supplies but also the purchase of school supplies might well be lodged with him. The auditor knows county business, and he should be valuable in the careful planning of this business and be able to submit costs to the board. The county board is something of a board of directors, and the county auditor should be the business manager.

[1]The counties can also reduce costs to a certain degree by distributing certain functions to districts comprising a group of counties.
Highways, education, policing, welfare, and health work might be taken over by the state and administered by state officials in place of many county officials.

1. Bulletin 16. Tax Commission report, 1932.

Finally, the surest but also the most difficult way to reduce costs, and hence taxes, is through the consolidation of counties. The state has 69 counties differing widely in population, area and wealth. Many of these counties lack the population and wealth to properly support local government. The author, after having visited most of the county seat towns and courthouses in South Dakota, has come to the conclusion that if the number of counties were reduced, hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes would be saved yearly; and if the agricultural group or any other class expects relief from taxation, they must simplify local government structures.

The main obstacle which prevents desirable reforms, such as consolidating offices, combining like or similar functions of local government, reorganizing county government into one unit wherever possible, and the consolidation of counties, is the reluctance of the people to change a local government to which they have become accustomed. If we are to have economical and efficient government, and hence the lowest taxes consistent with good government, it will be necessary to recognize the advantage of applying business principles and practices that have been developed and proven good in the business world.

Taxes for Organized Townships

When compared with the other four major taxing units, the taxes for organized townships are small. (Tables 7 and 8 and Figures 7 and 8). In 1915 they amounted to 9.6 per cent of the state total general tax. This total township tax reached a peak in 1920 of $2,852,534.50, with an index of 229.7. The gross figure was 8.1 per cent of the total general tax, having a percentage decrease of approximately 1.5 per cent from 1915. The township tax has increased relatively less than any of the other four major tax units. Its maximum index was 229.7 compared with 421.7 for state purposes, 282.4 for county purposes, 322.3 for school districts, 250.4 for cities and towns, and 276.5 for the total general tax. The township tax has a much lower minimum index than the others. In 1932 its index stood at 64.5 contrasted with 377.7 for state purposes, 173.1 for counties, 251.9 for school districts, 181.1 for cities and towns, and 212.0 for the total general taxes. The township tax in 1933 was cut to 40 per cent of the 1915 level. This low figure could not be maintained, and in 1934 there was a sharp increase. See table 8 and figure 8.

Need of Township Consolidation

It is certainly a question as to whether these small geographical tax-levying, tax-consuming units should exist, and all the points brought forth later in discussing the school district situation would be about equally applicable to them. The development of transportation facilities is making their continued existence as independent units less essential every year. Township organization and government dates back to the regime of the Duke of York in this country, and has changed relatively little since that time. In South Dakota our township units were all organized as minor sub-divisions of county government where such local units were considered to be of advantage. West of the Missouri river much of the territory has never been organized into civil townships. In the large county of Ziebach, one civil township exists, and the assessor's books run in terms of school districts. This is also true to a less degree in the eastern part of the state.

Bon Homme county, one of our oldest counties, has no organized townships and a number of east-river counties are only partially organized.

Formerly the major expenditure of the township governments was for roads. The old system of working out the road tax gave way to the requirement that the tax be paid in cash and later to the county taking over more and more supervision of the construction and maintenance of roads. Our present system limits township roads to side roads leading to state and county systems. With these changes has perhaps passed the need for any considerable levy for road purposes which was formerly the predominant expenditure of township government. The township indebtedness consists largely of warrants carrying a 7 per cent rate. The aggregate of this indebtedness amounted to $170,004.96 at the beginning of 1933. Aside from local road requirements, township expenditures are limited largely to debt retirement, assessor's expenses and fees of township officers.

Tax Trends of South Dakota Cities

In General

Table 11, Page 37 gives a detailed picture of what it costs to live in urban areas. Cities and incorporated towns take a fair-sized slice out of the total general tax dollar. In 1915 it was 13.9 per cent of the state general tax dollar; in 1920 it was 11.7 per cent. For the period this tax evidently did not keep up with the increase in total property taxes. In 1930 the percentage was 11.7, and in 1932, 11.8 per cent.

The taxes for cities and towns like the others, rose steadily after 1915. They rose to an index of 250.4 in 1921 and dropped approximately 30 points in 1922. The index reached a height of 228.0 in 1930, and then fell rapidly for the succeeding years. Valuations have increased since 1927 and in 1932 they jumped 37 points to an all-time peak for the whole period, the index moving from 138 to 175. They dropped again in 1933, but rates increased and the total tax remained relatively constant.

For Specific Cities

Table 12, Page 38 presents the property tax rates per thousand and Table 13 the index numbers of 23 South Dakota cities. These rates, over a five-year period, are relatively constant as valuations and taxes were in the previous table. However, there are some interesting variations. A complete explanation of any trend in public finances in any area is never particularly satisfying, owing to the multitudinous political and economic variables playing upon them. One might think that specific replies from city treasurers would lay the whole matter to rest immediately, but they merely satisfy some points and open up others. The author sent a letter to the city treasurer in each of 23 South Dakota cities asking for reasons which might be given for the decline or increase in property tax rates per $1000 in that particular city during the five-year period, 1929-1933.

Explanations of Treasurers

The following extracts were taken from the 19 replies returned. Naturally they are quite general and in some cases indefinite, but the Pierre and Brookings replies are decidedly specific.

Canton, South Dakota.—Our valuations have been lowered each year

but the millage was not reduced till 1932. We had to make an extra levy to pay off a $5000 judgment this year or our levy would have been less.

Chamberlain, South Dakota.—The reduction in tax rates was made by the retirement of bonded indebtedness.

Deadwood, South Dakota.—The decrease between 1931 and 1932 is due to the elimination of interest and sinking funds amounting to $3800. Our taxes are now increasing due to decreases the past two years and to the need of additional funds for new fire department equipment and library repairs.

Huron, South Dakota.—In reply to your inquiry received this morning regarding decrease in our tax levy, will state that it was brought about by measures of economy.

Lead, South Dakota.—[1]The above figures are correct.

Madison, South Dakota.—Reduced levies for salaries, street improvements, sinking funds and interest. With the exception of salaries and street improvements general expenditures of the city have remained about the same.

Milbank, South Dakota.—Replying to the above, principal reason was the elimination of two sinking fund levies and a water works levy.

Mobridge, South Dakota.—In the past five years the assessment has decreased from 3,000,000 to less than 2,000,000.

Pierre, South Dakota.—

Year	Tax Levies Consolidated	School	City	Total
1928	10.30	18.18	14.67	43.71
1929	10.15	18.49	17.43	46.07
1930	10.20	18.38	17.77	46.35
1931	9.64	16.23	12.54	38.41
1932	11.51	16.92	12.15	40.58
1933	8.36	14.40	13.64	36.40

The city of Pierre has not made any tax levy for a few years on street lighting, fire hydrant, maintenance, or any levy for bond or bond interest. This is explained by the commission using the earnings of the utilities. The city of Pierre owns and operates the electric, water and gas plants. Decreased assessed valuation of railroad property as well as all other property is another factor in favor of owning the utilities which are carrying the burden. Our decreased assessed valuation does not give our levy a true picture for the reason that during these years all real estate has been reduced 10 per cent and likewise all improvements were reduced 10 per cent. If our earnings continue as in the past three years, Mayor Hipple believes that Pierre will be a tax free city in ten or twelve years.

Redfield, South Dakota.—You do not state your official capacity or give any particular reason for wanting this information but as you have spent 3 cents state money for postage and possibly three cents of your own, I will match that amount with a few minutes of my time and give you the desired information. You state in your letter that during the five-year period from 1929-1933 our tax rate has increased from $35.54 to $40.46 and ask if I can give you reason for this. The figures you use include state, county, city, and school district taxes. I will segregate them for you.

1. Note: The treasurer merely referred to table 12, but offered no explanation of the changes.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
County and State	6.77	6.64	6.33	8.00	4.29
City of Redfield	16.09	13.81	10.12	11.31	16.13
School District	15.44	16.32	15.42	21.15	19.51
Total	39.30	36.77	31.87	40.46	39.39

The rate of increase for city purposes has increased only 4 cents per $1000 from 1929 to 1933. You will note there has been a decided increase in the past three years for city purposes which is accounted for by the reduction of our assessed valuation by the Tax Division. Another reason is that only about 60 per cent of the taxes are paid, and as no one is buying tax certificates we do not receive the money for which the rate is assessed; therefore, we must increase the rate to furnish money for city purposes. The city has reduced its expenditures to a great extent, but is necessary to increase the rate. While I do not have the data relative to this increase in the school rate, I presume the same reasons may be given for that increase.

Rapid City, South Dakota.—The tax rate for city purposes since 1929 is as follows:

1929	15.4110
1930	15.0000
1931	14.9139
1932	14.9724
1933	18.4631

If the combined rate for city, school, county, and state purposes has decreased it must have come from either state or school.

Sioux Falls, South Dakota.—We should say that the reason for a gradual decrease in the taxes for the past five years in this city would come from the cutting down of expenditures, increased assessed valuation of city property, decreases in the city's bonded indebtedness, and in the past year a decrease due to the gross income tax which reduced taxes about 30 per cent.

Sisseton, South Dakota.—Reduction of tax rate due to reduction in outstanding bonds. Salaries were cut some also.

Spearfish, South Dakota.—Public economy caused reduction mentioned over the period. In 1933 the gross income tax brought about a reduction but in 1934 there will be a considerable increase due to a new waterworks bond issue.

Watertown, South Dakota.—In 1929 the property assessment was $11,665,838 and taxes collected by the city only amounted to $768,557. In 1933 assessed valuations were 9,322,266 returning a tax of $107,329.

Yankton, South Dakota.—A program of economy and the reappropriation of surplus balances into the yearly budgets.

Wessington Springs, South Dakota.—City levies have been materially decreased during the past five years in this city, but owing to drought conditions valuations have decreased and the county and state rates are higher so that the total rate is much higher.

Brookings, South Dakota.—The drop in 1932 and 1933 was due mainly to the lowering of the budget for city and schools, and the city transferred one-half the amount of their budget from the funds of the city utility plants to the general fund, thereby cutting the levy in taxes one-half.

Summarizing the above it appears that in nine of our cities lowering of the budget and measures of economy in cities and schools were cited as causes of decreases in tax rates. Changes in the assessed valuation of property was given as a cause of lower taxes in three cities, and as a cause of higher taxes in five cities. In seven cities—Chamberlain, Deadwood, Madison, Milbank, Pierre, Sioux Falls and Sisseton—the retirement or reduction of bonded indebtedness contributed to the lowering of the tax rate; while in Canton an extra levy was necessary to pay off a $5000 judgment and Spearfish had to have a new waterworks bond issue.

The gross income tax is given some credit in Sioux Falls and also in Spearfish. Redfield very frankly admits that since all taxes cannot be collected, rates must be higher upon those who pay taxes.

The experience of Brookings and Pierre are most interesting and significant. The ownership and operation of public utilities by governmental units has always been a most debatable subject. It is pretty generally admitted that the city can own and operate its own water system to advantage, owing to the simplicity of administration of this form of business enterprise. In the case of light and gas it is very much more questionable, but evidently both cities have been successful.

The point voiced by the Pierre city treasurer to the effect that the city might eventually be tax free owing to the financial success of the owned public utility brings forth another question. In the first place, a city is not tax free under such conditions, and in the second place the incidence of such indirect taxation may be highly questionable. This tax that is wrapped up in the kilowatt hour does not fall on all alike. Would not the large property owner reap a benefit at the expense of the small owner? The renter who owns no property now pays a property tax in the form of a higher lighting rate. If the effect of this is to reduce rents, it will finally rest upon the property owners but if not, then renters pay city taxes.

Table 11.—Valuation and Index of Valuation; Tax and Index of Tax, Cities and Towns, South Dakota, 1915-1933.

Year	Valuation	(1915=100) Index of Valuation	(000 omitted) Tax	(1915=100) Index of Tax
1915	200,590,666	100.0	1,800,445	100.0
1916	207,483,434	103.4	1,958,861	108.8
1917	221,771,688	110.6	2,402,890	133.5
1918	234,854,349	117.1	2,512,646	139.6
1919	255,424,214	127.3	3,272,979	181.8
1920	286,451,880	142.8	4,140,799	230.0
1921	280,415,794	139.8	4,509,111	250.4
1922	266,211,068	132.7	3,976,868	220.9
1923	263,746,232	131.5	3,928,839	218.2
1924	268,637,528	133.9	4,017,743	223.2
1925	267,773,711	133.5	3,980,638	221.1
1926	268,051,540	133.6	3,905,126	216.9
1927	262,726,281	131.0	3,953,781	219.6
1928	272,785,305	136.0	4,023,476	223.5
1929	274,102,846	136.4	4.072,420	226.2
1930	278,158,485	138.7	4,104,969	228.0
1931	276,772,937	138.0	3,515,465	195.3
1932	350,997,541	175.0	3,259,748	181.1
1933	219,574,398	109.5	3,193,109	177.4
1934			3.498,898	194.3

Source: Annual Reports of Taxation Commission and Division of Taxation, South Dakota, 1915-1934.

Table 12.—Property Tax Rates per $1000, South Dakota Cities*.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Aberdeen	41.93	42.42	42.24	38.49	39.90
Brookings	37.67	38.11	37.76	29.28	29.59
Canton	38.94	39.23	38.50	33.89	39.57
Chamberlain	43.95	44.04	44.08	33.57	40.91
Deadwood	42.76	43.94	44.18	43.39	43.39
Edgemont	----	----	66.56	----	64.03
Hot Springs	67.77	64.65	----	61.22	----
Huron	40.03	----	38.34	33.20	36.00
Lead	35.80	36.00	35.95	35.21	35.08
Madison	42.63	40.87	39.11	32.43	34.66
Milbank	45.73	45.61	45.64	35.59	36.53
Mitchell	39.60	42.69	43.91	33.57	----
Mobridge	48.28	51.22	51.91	48.80	50.72
Pierre	43.17	----	46.35	38.41	40.58
Rapid City	53.51	52.13	52.08	51.74	51.41
Redfield	35.45	38.30	38.19	31.87	40.46
Selby	44.15	47.86	49.23	47.19	48.39
Sioux Falls	36.17	35.07	34.11	33.59	32.74
Sisseton	44.10	45.24	45.03	38.93	42.49
Spearfish	52.00	50.30	49.84	50.63	49.94
Watertown	41.25	43.42	41.01	38.44	42.57
Wessington Springs	34.98	34.62	34.44	35.00	37.96
Yankton	45.95	43.69	40.24	34.81	44.28

* The Corporation Tax Service—page 314.

Table 13..—Index of Property Tax Rates per $1000. South Dakota Cities (1929=100)

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Aberdeen	100	101.1	100.7	91.8	95.2
Brookings	100	137.7	136.5	105.8	106.9
Canton	100	100.7	98.9	87.0	101.6
Chamberlain	100	100.2	100.3	76.4	93.1
Deadwood	100	102.8	103.3	101.5	101.5
Edgemont	100	----	----	----	----
Hot Springs	100	95.4	----	90.3	----
Huron	100	----	95.8	82.9	89.9
Lead	100	100.6	100.4	98.4	98.0
Madison	100	95.9	91.7	76.1	81.3
Milbank	100	99.7	99.8	77.8	79.9
Mitchell	100	107.8	110.9	84.8	----
Mobridge	100	106.1	107.5	101.1	105.1
Pierre	100	----	107.4	89.0	94.0
Rapid City	100	97.4	97.3	96.3	96.1
Redfield	100	108.0	107.7	92.5	114.1
Selby	100	108.4	111.5	106.9	109.6
Sioux Falls	100	97.0	94.3	92.9	90.5
Sisseton	100	102.6	102.1	88.3	96.3
Spearfish	100	96.7	95.8	97.4	96.0
Watertown	100	105.3	99.4	93.2	103.2
Wessington Springs	100	99.0	98.5	100.0	108.5
Yankton	100	95.1	87.6	75.8	96.4

Based on Property Tax Rates as in Table 12.

Table 14.—Tax, Debt, and Valuation Figures of South Dakota Cities Compared.

	Sioux Falls	Aberdeen	Huron	Mitchell	Rapid City	Watertown	Lead	Brookings	Pierre	Mobridge
Assessed Valuations:										
Real Estate	$29,627,416.00	$ 9,562,000.00	$6,231,775.00	$6,800,809.00	$6,443,286.00	$4,648,769.00	$7,978,392.00	$3,260,254.00	$2,295,844.00	$1,291,305.00
Personal Property	6,772,085.00	1,935,975.00	1,102,934.00	1,281,718.00	1,526,344.00	1,180,462.00	1,071,665.00	635,631.00	546,490.00	330,150.00
Railroads	1,170,885.00	1,117,719.00		360,618.00	410,997.00	874,850.00	173,842.00	138,964.00	836,542.00	256,134.00
Telephone	894,475.00	381,455.00		180,843.00	264,578.00	161,583.00	63,822.00	Municipal	170,583.00	45,433.00
Telegraph	58,721.00	1,760.00	1,421,830.00	1,626.00	2,481.00	2,735.00	307.00	942.00	1,929.00	372.00
Express and Pullman	1,035.00	300.00	(Combined)		260.00	27,400.00		313.00	398.00	198.00
Public Utilities	1,892.00	959,866.00		654,000.00	322,021.00	153,850.00	142,200.00			206,732.00
Total	$40,420,689.00	$13,959,075.00	$8,756,539.00	$9,279,614.00	$8,969,967.00	$7,049,649.00	$9,430,228.00	$4,036,104.00	$4,528,286.00	$2,130,324.00
Money and Credits	No Report	$ 3,359,395.00	$ 926,609.00	$1,494,753.00	No Report	$2,495,175.00	$ 821,034.00	$ 633,061.00	$ 676,500.00	$ 220,000.00
Bonded Debt (City)	1,010,000.00	957,500.00	506,500.00	927,500.00	514,000.00	961,000.00			289,000.00	67,000.00
Registered or Floating Warrants	25,364.53	32,711.36		53,740.41		34,044.22			91,587.91	
Sinking Fund	247,868.65	102,798.72	59,000.00	130,098.80	241,505.00	209,658.84		39,821.16	11,953.14	3,556.49
Sinking Fund Investments	114,000.00	78,284.48	8,691.21	72,030.76	188,000.00	175,083.06			4,171.21	5,000.00
Total Appropriation	931,580.00	341,520.00	174,993.75	264,776.00	252,980.00	124,427.50	75,000.00	77,050.00	193,558.00	54,016.25
Appropriation to be Derived from Taxes	601,580.00	253,920.00	165,743.75	208,876.00	168,670.00	130,976.31	75,000.00	26,100.00	48,558.00	44,856.25
Other Sources	330,000.00	87,600.00	9,250.00	55,900.00	84,310.00	364,555.00		50,950.00	145,000.00	9,160.00
Bonded Debt (Schools)	$ 1,482,500.00	$ 294,000.00	$ 200,500.00	$ 165,000.00	$ 315,000.00	$ 165,000.00		$ 150,000.00	No Report	$80,500.00
Registered or Floating Warrants	12,374.48		3,000.00		195,229.30		46.681.53		No Report	22,197.49
Sinking Fund	1,014,847.84	72,027.00	10,000,00		210,452.40	30,263.68		1,505.02	11,953.14	5,123.66
Sinking Fund Investments	738.131.46				175,739.63			23,000.00	4,171.21	
Total Appropriation	558,630.00	285,150.00	210,022.00	125,000.00	236,145.00	193,930.00	145,000.00	100,600.00		81,269.33
Appropriation to be Derived from Taxes	558,630.00	254,950.00	210,022.00	125,000.00	205,145.00	170,000.00	140,000.00	76,000.00	No Report	73,429.23
Other Sources	No Report	30,200.00	10,000.00	27,000.00	31,000.00	23,930.00	5,000.00	24,600.00	No Report	7,840.00
Rate of Taxation (Mills):										
County	5.28	5.00	6.94	5.94	11.92	7.21	7.96	4.89	9.10	7.00
School	13.83	18.26	24.08	13.50	18.53	23.78	12.01	18.46	18.42	
City	14.89	18.17	18.94	22.51	22.60	18.58	9.01	6.47	12.61	40.55
Total	34.00	41.43	49.96	41.95	53.05	49.57	28.98	29.82	40.13	47.55
Population (1930 Census)	33,362	16,465	11,000	10,942	10,044	10,251	5,875	4,376	3,659	3,517
Total Bonded Debt	$ 2,492,500.00	$ 1,251,500.00	$ 707,000.00	$ 92,500.00	$ 829,000.00	$1,126,000.00	None	$ 150,000.00		$ 147,500.00
Total Bonded Debt Per Capita	$ 74.71	$ 76.00	$ 64.27	$ 99.84	$ 79.68	$ 109.84	None	$ 34.28		$ 41.94
Assessed Valuation Per Capita	$ 1,211.55	$ 847.19	$ 796.04	$ 848.07	$ 862.16	$ 687.70	$ 1,605.05	$ 922.33	$ 1,237.57	$ 605.72

Compiled by Lydia W. Kohlhoff, City Auditor, Aberdeen, S. Dak.

School District Taxes

Table 15 and Figure 10 portray the enormous growth of taxes needed to support our schools during the selected period. Starting with 1915, the tax was a little over four and one-half million, reaching an all-time peak in 1929 of almost fifteen million; and this relationship with the 1915 base year indicates an outstanding rise of almost three and one-half times that of the initial year. Making all due allowances for the depreciation in the value of money during the two inflation periods, there is still a large absolute growth in the fiscal demand of the districts for support. These large gross amounts are not imposed upon the districts by other tax-levying units, but are entirely of their own making, and they reflect the desires of thousands of people to have and enjoy more and better public services in relation to education. The latter part of the period reflects the effect of the depression with its decline in prices, and the increase in the value of money, but also and more important the slashing of expenditures wherever possible. By 1932, building construction had ceased entirely and teachers' salaries had been cut below those of stenographers and clerks, with payment often times in warrants that had to be heavily discounted. The flight of teachers into more renumerative employments is already making itself felt.

Fluctuations

Taxes for school districts in 1915 amounted to $4,651,258.83, or 36 per cent of the 1915 South Dakota general tax. In 1920, the percentage was 37, in 1925 43 per cent, in 1929 42 per cent and in 1932 43 per cent. The school district index has been exceeded only by the tax for state purposes. The climb of this former index has been quite continuous, remaining approximately 300 per cent above the 1915 level until 1930, when a thirty point drop occurred, and a larger drop in 1932 of 38.7. This is repeated again in 1933. Fortunately, in this latter year, the reduction is not due to continued slashing of expenditures but to the allocation of gross income tax collections to the school districts, permittting possible rate reductions. The disappointing failure of this law to bring in anticipated revenues forced school district taxes up in the final year.

Taxes in Selected Counties

Table 16 and Figures 11 and 12 contain tax totals of about a third of our counties in the state. The gross figures are followed by the index column and the calculations are for five-year periods from 1915 to 1930 followed by a three-year period after 1930. The indexes tell much the same story that they do for the previous totals. Certain extremes are apparent in both directions. The county of Ziebach levied taxes of $13,699 in 1915, by 1920 the levy had risen to $62,936, the index showing 459.4, over the 1915 base of 100. In 1925 the tax was $85,188, the index jumping to 621.9. The peak comes in 1930 with $89,695, the index showing a relationship of 654.8. 1933 indicates considerable improvement, but taxes are still too high in Ziebach.

Table 15.—School District Taxes and Indexes 1915-1934, South Dakota.*

Year	Tax (00 Omitted)	Index of Tax
1915	4,651,259	100.0
1916	5,098,288	109.6
1917	5,837,548	125.5
1918	6,826,342	146.8
1919	8,900,549	191.4
1920	13,134,387	282.4
1921	13,920,889	299.3
1922	14,402,156	309.6
1923	14,252,655	306.4
1924	14,192,945	305.1
1925	14,484,299	311.4
1926	14,476,827	311.2
1927	14,526,434	312.3
1928	14,795,300	318.1
1929	14,990,997	322.3
1930	14,937,281	321.1
1931	13,514,236	290.6
1932	11,714,350	251.9
1933	8,336,470	179.2
1934	10,398,517	223.6

* From Annual Reports Tax Commission and Division of Taxation, South Dakota.

Table 16.—School District Taxes for Selected Years—South Dakota Counties.

Counties	Assessment Year 1915	1920	1925	1930	1933
Beadle	130,783	421,575	487,457	510,801	313,894
Brookings	104,380	282,426	299,522	320,162	177,666
Brown	240,307	618,521	720,470	778,041	422,408
Campbell	26,010	99,466	101,603	114,287	54,091
Charles Mix	109,978	261,599	300,906	322,228	150,068
Clark	105,187	263,333	270,474	302,714	147,078
Day	91,183	242,408	282,881	293,991	168,146
Fall River	58,454	177,435	192,240	211,117	143,677
Faulk	52,846	159,154	197,817	186,829	124,087
Haakon	64,809	150,920	146,765	140,258	73,700
Hanson	44,138	160,113	149,517	138,624	69,697
Harding	42,626	93,384	88,852	96,542	50,753
Hughes	66,200	165,807	194,200	202,787	135,785
Meade	69,547	190,924	229,430	251,702	148,229
Mellette	19,313	68,385	91,260	86,305	41,227
Minnehaha	296,287	925,404	1,064,722	1,045,087	555,765
Roberts	103,772	268,014	236,335	225,862	121,853
Tripp	92,298	258,440	290,665	272,074	139,780
Union	65,774	180,782	175,674	182,815	98,715
Ziebach	13,699	62,936	85,188	89,695	48,108

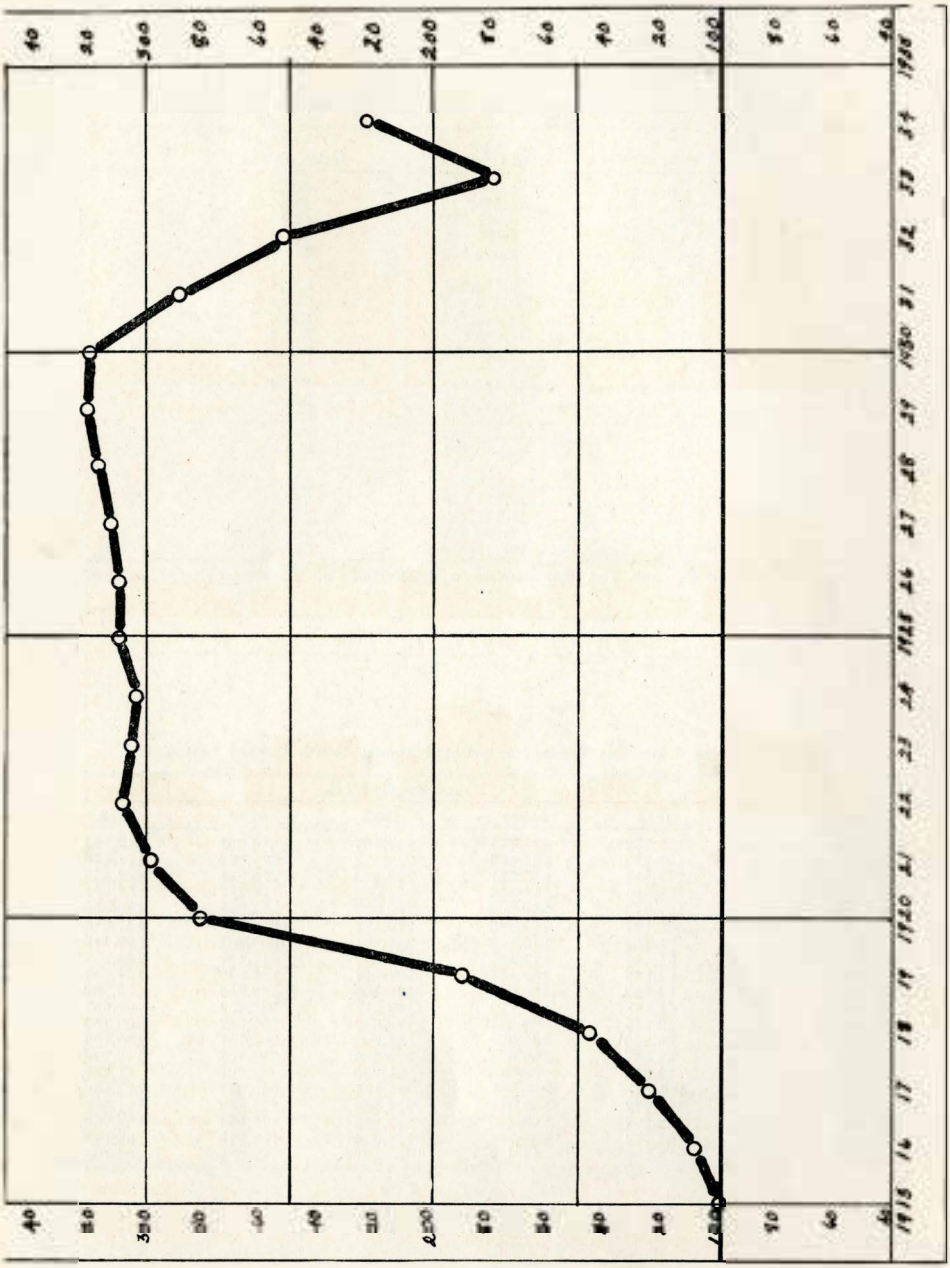

Figure 19.—Indexes of Taxes for School Purposes.

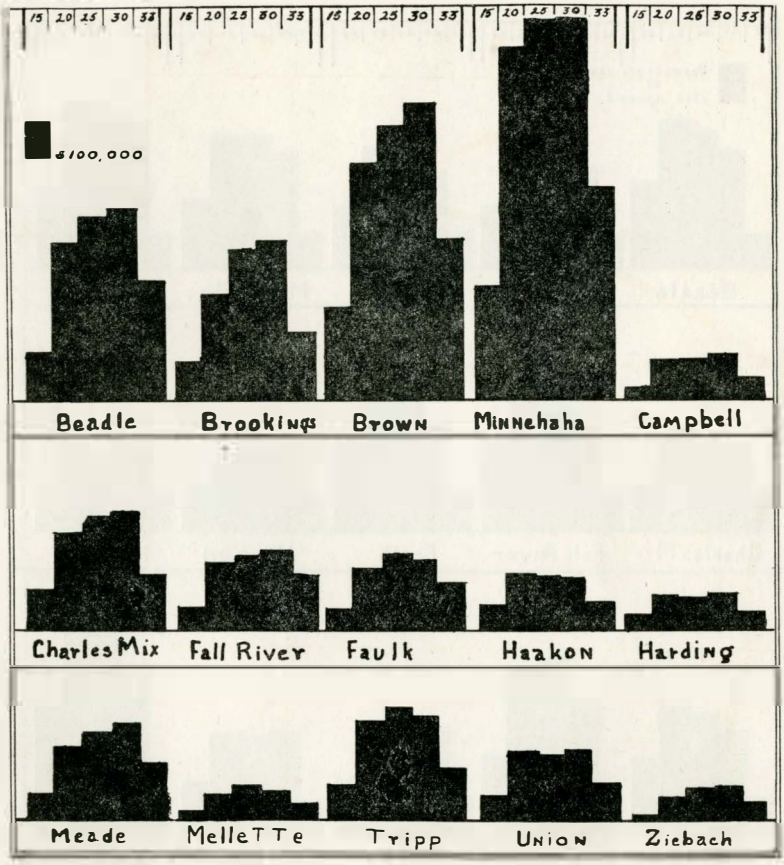

Figure 11.—School District Taxes 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1933—Fifteen Selected Counties.

The county of Haakon a little more than doubled its taxes between 1915 and 1920, or from $64,809 to $150,920. In 1925, the latter figure was reduced somewhat and this continued for 1930, lowering to $140,258. By 1932 it had been slashed down to $99,014 with the index standing at 152.8. Nevertheless, the burden on Haakon is decidedly heavy in proportion to population, wealth and income.

Figure 11 results from the plotting of total taxes, and such counties as Minnehaha, Beadle, Brown and Brookings dominate the chart and seem to imply that school taxes are high in these respective counties; but actually they give no indication of the school district tax burden. Notice figure 12 where the index numbers have been plotted. Ziebach, due to the enormous percentage of increase in taxes, has now changed places with Minnehaha. Mellette bulks large. Brookings and Brown are similar in point of change. Beadle, Campbell, Charles Mix and Fall River have undergone considerable change.

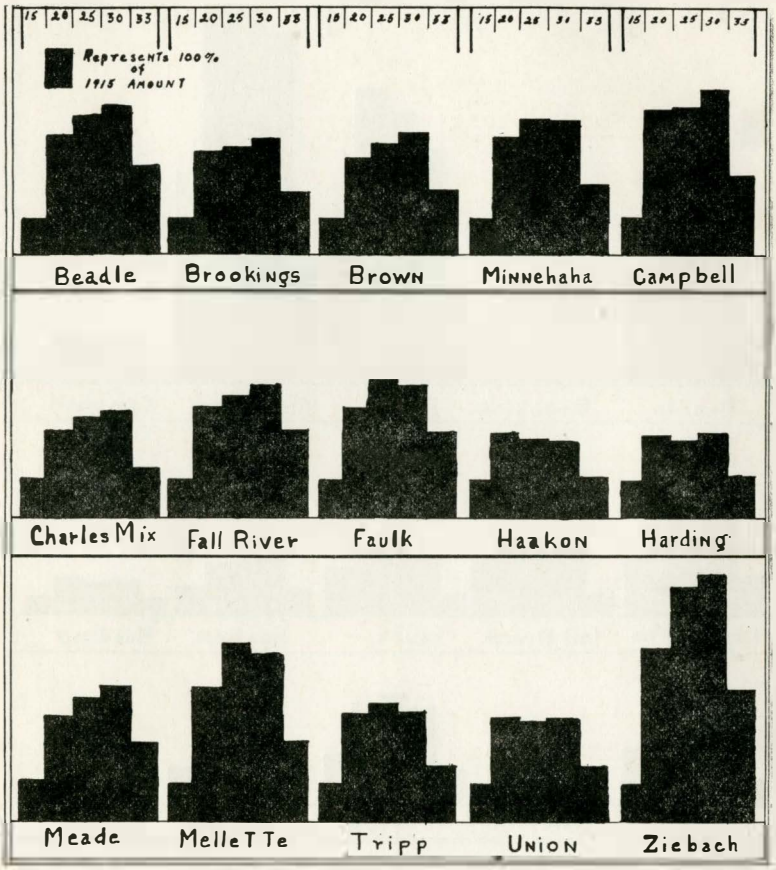

Figure 12.—Indexes of School District Taxes 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1933, Fifteen Selected Counties.

In Table 19, Page 46 the districts have been separated, and the total costs, attendance and cost per pupil given by counties in the three kinds of districts. In the common school districts, the average cost per pupil in Fall River, Haakon, Hughes, and Faulk counties is considerably above the others. The data indicates a rather definite relation between low attendance and high costs. This relationship carries over to the independent districts and also to the consolidated school districts. Various studies have been made from time to time to prove how expensive is the maintenance of the districts that lack school population. The figures presented here are general and the averages no doubt cover up some of the worst financial situations. The seriousness of much of the state's tax difficulties can be traced back to school districts, and the analysis that follows at least throws some light on the problem.

Table 17.—School District Taxes for Selected South Dakota Counties and Indices of Tax (1915=100)

Counties	Tax 1915	Index 1915	Tax 1920	Index 1920	Tax 1925	Index 1925	Tax 1930	Index 1930	Tax 1933	Index 1933
Beadle	130,783	100	421,575	322.3	487,457	372.7	510,801	390.6	313,894	240.0
Brookings	104,380	100	282,426	270.6	299,522	287.0	320,162	306.7	177,666	170.2
Brown	240,307	100	618,521	257.4	720,470	299.8	778,041	323.8	422,408	175.8
Campbell	26,010	100	99,466	382.4	101,603	390.6	114,287	439.4	54.091	208.0
Charles Mix	109,978	100	261,599	237.9	300,906	273.6	322,228	293.0	150,068	136.5
Clark	105,187	100	263,333	250.3	270,474	257.1	203,714	287.8	147,078	139.8
Day	91,183	100	242,408	265.8	282,881	310.2	293,991	322.4	168,146	184.4
Fall River	58,454	100	177,435	303.5	192,240	328.9	211,117	361.2	143,677	245.8
Faulk	52,846	100	159,154	301.2	197,817	374.3	186,829	353.5	124,087	234.8
Haakon	64,809	100	150.920	232.9	146,765	226.5	140,258	216.4	73,700	113.7
Hanson	44,138	100	160,113	362.8	149,517	338.7	138,624	314.1	69,697	157.9
Harding	42,626	100	93,384	219.1	88,852	208.4	96,542	226.5	50,753	119.1
Hughes	66,200	100	165,807	250.5	194,200	293.4	202,787	306.3	135,785	205.1
Meade	69,547	100	190,924	274.5	229,430	330.0	251,702	361.9	148,229	213.1
Mellette	19,313	100	68,385	354.1	91,260	472.5	86,305	446.9	41,227	213.5
Minnehaha	296,287	100	925.404	312.3	1,064,722	359.4	1,045,087	352.7	555,765	187.6
Roberts	103,772	100	268,014	258.3	236,335	227.7	225,862	217.7	121,853	117.4
Tripp	92,298	100	258,440	280.0	290,665	314.9	272,074	294.8	139,780	151.4
Union	65,774	100	180,782	274.9	175,674	267.1	182,815	277.9	98,415	149.6
Ziebach	13,699	100	62,936	459.4	85,188	621.9	89,695	654.8	48,108	351.2

Table 18.—Per Capita Costs of Schools per Pupil Enrolled* (Includes Common, Independent and Consolidated School Districts) (1917=100)

School Year Ending June 30	Per Capita Cost	Index
1917	$ 49.15	100.0
1918	56.79	115.5
1919	67.62	137.6
1920	78.99	160.7
1921	106.42	216.5
1922	116.13	236.3
1923	112.56	229.0
1924	107.17	218.0
1925	108.56	220.9
1926	112.04	228.0
1927	109.28	222.3
1928	111.14	226.1
1929	115.08	234.1
1930	119.06	242.2
1931	114.90	233.8
1932	88.27	179.5
1933	75.30	153.4
1934	61.50	125.1

* Taken from Biennial Reports of State Superintendent of Schools, South Dakota.

Table 19.—Total School Costs, Total Number Pupils Enrolled, Cost Per Pupil for Common, Consolidated and Independent School Districts, South Dakota, July 1, 1931 - June 30, 1932.

	Common School Districts			Independent School Districts			Consolidated School Districts		
Selected County	Total Costs	Number in Attendance	Cost Per Pupil	Total Costs	Number in Attendance	Cost Per Pupil	Total Costs	Number in Attendance	Cost Per Pupil
Beadle	170,367	1,734	98.25	291,092	3,614	80.55	32,922	258	127.60
Brookings	143,859	1,944	74.00	104,600	2,190	47.76			
Brown	273,434	2,378	114.98	183,229	4,820	38.01	32,031	270	118.63
Campbell	60,865	1,025	59.38	30,756	422	72.88	3,957	60	65.95
Charles Mix	180,759	2,351	76.69	103,326	1,436	71.94	23,411	195	120.05
Clark	126,261	1,394	90.57	95,988	1,211	79.26	26,392	253	104.31
Day	125,156	1,630	76.78	136,428	1,611	84.69	19,829	167	118.73
Fall River	96,484	712	135.51	129,346	1,347	96.03			
Faulk	86,580	736	117.63	136,398	793	172.00	28,334	266	106.51
Haakon	104,193	684	152.32	33,556	417	80.47	3,736	28	133.42
Hanson	52,570	592	88.80	45,550	434	104.95	40,553	336	120.69
Harding	88,315	659	134.01				28,796	114	252.59
Hughes	61,492	423	145.37	87,017	1,213	71.74	30,651	274	111.86
Meade	172,120	1,754	98.13	49,855	769	64.84	10,026	94	106.65
Mellette	68,005	666	102.11	32,384	451	71.80			
Minnehaha	185,527	1,884	98.48	901,711	8,921	101.08	45,911	419	109.57
Roberts	129,357	2,265	57.11	105,390	1,573	66.99			
Tripp	177,812	1,963	90.58	29,438	438	67.21	60,093	849	70.78
Union	121,285	1,536	78.96	95,928	1,268	75.65	1,843	12	153.58
Ziebach	56,311	632	89.10	13,967	201	69.49			

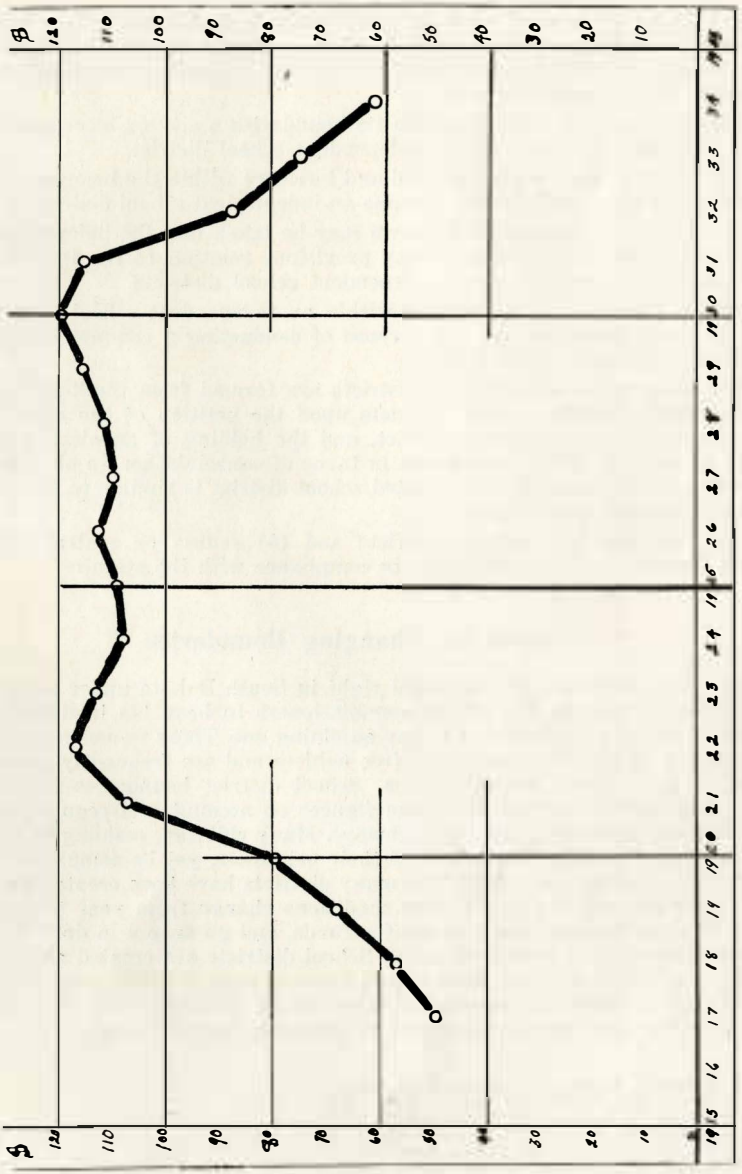

Figure 13.—Per Capita Costs of Schools—Absolute Amounts.

The Present School District Status

(1) There are several kinds of school districts authorized by the laws of South Dakota—common school districts, independent school districts, independent consolidated school districts, county high school districts, and township high school districts.

(2) Any territory having within its boundaries a city or incorporated town may be organized into an independent school district.

(3) When a town is incorporated and territory within the incorporated limits of the town shall by law, become an independent school district.

(4) Territory adjacent to the town may be taken into the independent district and the statutes show many provisions relating to the inclusion or exclusion of territory from independent school districts.

(5) Any territory not included within an independent school district that has been organized for the purpose of conducting a common school, is called a common school district.

(6) Independent consolidated districts are formed from territory embraced within common school districts upon the petition of the electors residing within the proposed district, and the holding of an election at which a majority of the voters vote in favor of consolidation. In all other respects, the independent consolidated school district is similar to the ordinary common school district.

(7) Township high school districts and (8) county or central high school districts may be established in compliance with the statutes.

Provisions for Changing Boundaries

(9) The landowner has the legal right in South Dakota under certain conditions to petition the county commissioners to have his land transferred from one school district to any adjoining one. These requests usually arise out of the interests of the free holders and are frequently prejudicial to good school administration. School district boundaries in this state now form somewhat grotesque figures on account of irregularities of boundaries and the system of highways. Many children, residing in one district may be nearer the school of their neighbors, yet be compelled to attend the more distant school. Too many districts have been created with only local interest in mind, and as conditions change from year to year many of them become hard pressed for funds, and go deeply in debt. The greatest diversity of conditions exist. School districts are created and pepetuated in which children have access to an ungraded school only. Children living on farms of comparable value but on different sides of a district line may not have direct access to the same type of school.

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(1) Article I, Section 49, Session Laws 1933.
(2) Article III, Section 170, Session Laws 1933.
(3) Article II, Section 171, Session Laws 1933.
(4) Article III, Section 173, Sessions Laws 1933.
(5) Article I, Section 112, Session Laws 1933.
(6) Article IV, Sections 199-201, Session Laws 1933.
(7) Article V, Sections 208-218, Session Laws 1933.
(8) Article VI, Sections 219-223, Sessions Laws 1933.
(9) Article II, Section 117-118, Sessions Laws 1933.
Article III, Section 173 & 176, Session Laws 1933.

Children may have their homes in school districts in which there are no public schools. There are urban areas that maintain graded schools and there are schools in the open county that operate twelve-year systems.

The small school district has frequently been the cause of some disastrous educational financing. Curiously enough, while the county superintendent in Tripp county complains against the small school district for not being able to carry its burden, the county superintendent of Meade county condemns the large school district for the same reason. However, the same cause is operative in both, namely, a scarcity of population and resources upon which to impose the tax burden. It is a most peculiar situation, but many families pay greater taxes for poor educational facilities than others in a neighboring district pay for better facilities.

The unsatisfactory methods of assessment distribute the tax burden unfairly among the members of the local community. Variations in assessing practices, unequal distribution of resources and local power to determine the type of schools to be maintained, create an unfair distribution of school costs among the different communities of the state. These injustices are not confined to any one area but are to be found in all types of school districts in all sections.

Lack of Resources and School Population

The school district lacking in resources and population accounts for considerable economic waste. The small district unit means small schools and high average costs per pupil, and hence heavy tax burdens in the community. At present, South Dakota is maintaining and operating 539 rural schools in which the attendance ranges from one to six pupils each; 21 of these schools have an average enrollment of only one to two pupils while 152 others are attended by 3 to 4 pupils. 366 schools are being operated for the benefit of only 5 to 6 students; although teachers' salaries are pitifully low, nevertheless, the cost of maintaining these units is very high per pupil and from all points of view unsatisfactory. If it costs $600 to run a school for 8 months with 1 or 2 pupils, the per capita cost per year is astounding.

Haakon county is perhaps the worst sufferer in this respect. The county hires 13 teachers, maintains 13 school buildings, and provides 13 boards of education to serve only 45 students. If consolidation were possible, two teachers one board of education and one building would suffice. Thirteen other schools in the same county serve only about 65 students, where two teachers and two buildings would suffice. Brown county is more fortunate. It operates only one school having an attendance below 4 and one having an attendance below six.

In view of the fact that approximately 1500 schools are without funds and operating on a registered warrant basis, it is essential that the school system be subjected to considerable change. The following tabulation is indicative of a bad situation.

21 schools are operating with an enrollment of not more than 2 pupils.
173 schools are operating with an enrollment of not over 4 pupils.
539 schools with not over 6 pupils.
1090 schools with not over 8 pupils.
1742 schools with not over 10 pupils.
2411 schools with not over 12 pupils.
2994 schools with not over 14 pupils.
4070 schools with not over 20 pupils.

The data offers fairly conclusive evidence that the mass of rural school children are educated under most expensive conditions. Moreover, the decrease of school expenditures can only be accomplished through the elmination of educational services, unless some administrative reforms are instituted.

School District Areas, Valuations and Rates in Brookings County, 1933

School Dist.	Area	Valuation	Rate
22	9 sq. mi.	172,226	4.60
112	9 sq. mi.	240,538	3.88
94	9 sq. mi.	266,899	.50
*91	4½ sq. mi.	121,645	8.24
28	4⅞ sq. mi.	187,865	6.13
5	6 sq. mi.	245,122	1.00
Bangor	29⅞ sq. mi.	834,372	3.27
†7	7 sq. mi.	275,770	13.46
13	6 sq. mi.	201,478	4.68
27	8¾ sq. mi.	263,585	.43
24	8¾ sq. mi.	303,937	5.49
Average			5.02

*91 Extensive repair.
† A new building—2 years high school.

School District Areas, Valuations and Rates, Tripp County, 1933.

School Dist.	Area	Valuation	Rate
86	10 sq.mi.	7,083	.88
3	41 sq. mi.	305,284	17.96
84	9 sq. mi.	42,950	5.56
15	30 sq. mi.	170,209	6.06
29	27 sq. mi.	186,493	14.26
1	42 sq. mi.	95,699	4.60
48	9 sq. mi.	36,279	6.99
49	9 sq. mi.	31,544	7.47
50	9 sq. mi.	30,804	9.16
51	9 sq. mi.	25,840	10.07

School District Areas, Valuations and Rates, Meade County, 1933.

School Dist.	Area	Valuation	Rate
45	3 sq. mi.	138,228	4.11
25	7⅝ sq. mi.	59,181	.67
68	12½ sq. mi.	126,104	4.29
16	36 sq. mi	55,803	8.78
85	52 sq. mi.	129,035	8.73
79	49 sq. mi.	146,950	3.13
52	16 sq. mi.	129,042	5.57
3	12 sq. mi.	71,445	11.75
84	18 sq. mi.	91,438	11.71
31	63 sq. mi.	207,331	5.54
92	144 sq. mi.	446,647	11.62
1	36 sq. mi.	57,146	13.07
29	36 sq. mi.	92,186	19.78
70	160 sq. mi.	250,745	12.38
6	158 sq. mi.	97,579	15.21

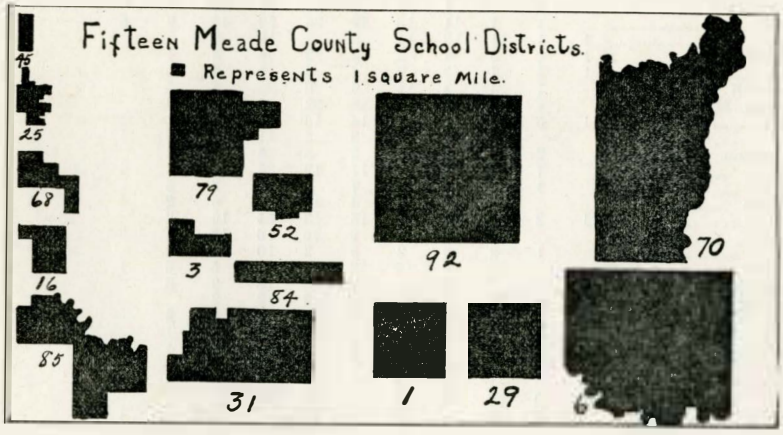

Figure 14.—Map of Various Meade County School Districts

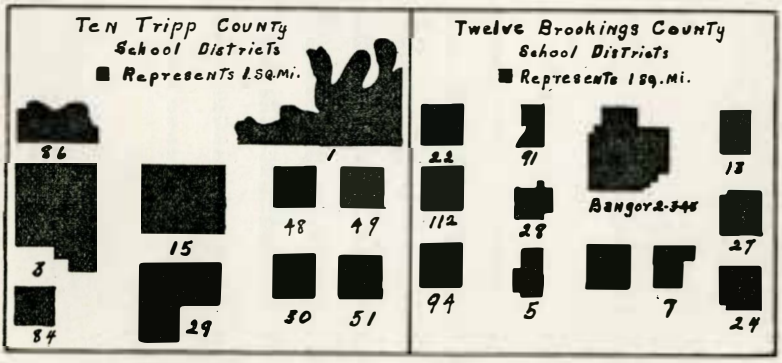

Figure 15.—Map of Various Tripp and Brookings County School Districts

Table 20.—Number of Rural Schools Classified by Number of Pupils Enrolled in South Dakota[1]

County	Number of Pupils												
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	Over 40
Aurora	1	4	8	14	14	7	3	10					
Beadle		3	4	12	11	24	21	35	8	4	1		
Bennett			3	3	3	5		8	5	5	5	1	1
Bon Homme		3	4	8	5	13	9	25	10	2	3		
Brookings		2	8	6	12	17	20	32	13				
Brown		1	1	11	18	12	25	20	43	9	6		
Brule	1	1	11	13	14	9	7	10	3				
Buffalo	1	1	3	4	2	3	2	6	3	1	1		
Butte	1	5	7	3	9	4	4	3	6	5			
Campbell		1	4	8	11	6	6	22	6	3		2	
Charles Mix		1	4	19	18	19	22	36	18	3			
Clark	1	5	11	11	15	14	13	14	2	1	1		
Clay			1	4	6	3	5	11	15	3	1		
Codington		2	4	7	8	9	5	16	5	4			
Corson		1	4	9	11	11	12	26	8	2	4	1	1
Custer		1	2	9	6	7	2	10	2	5		1	5
Davison			3	2	2	4	10	17	6	2	1	2	1
Day	1	2	6	10	10	15	13	35	10	2			
Deuel			3	2	2	9	10	16	13	4	2		
Dewey		1	2	6	2	5	2	10	4	2		1	
Douglas			3	6	10	12	10	14	5	3	1		
Edmunds		1	7	8	10	14	19	18	9	3			
Fall River		10	12	9	10	6	3	12	2				
Faulk				10	4	7	10	18	8	6	5	4	3
Grant		2	4	12	9	14	5	26	7	1			
Gregory		3	10	14	21	8	9	19	4	1	1	1	
Haakon		13	13	14	11	10	2	3					
Hamlin			1	2	4	11	5	18	5	4	2	2	2
Hand	1	10	17	22	22	10	11	15		1			
Hanson		3	3	4	6	5	10	7	2		1		
Harding													
Hughes		2	7	8	5	4		5					
Hutchinson		3	4	5	9	16	7	25	8	6	3	2	
Hyde		5	3	4	7	6	6	8	3				
Jackson		1	8	3	6	2	5	2	1				
Jerauld		2	6	7	12	10	8	11					
Jones	2	1	3	12	7	5	4	6					
Kingsbury		5	6	12	16	13	14	17	6	2	1		
Lake			4	8	11	14	3	16	3				
Lawrence		1	4	1	7	5	1	3	2	2	2		4
Lincoln		2	1	4	8	6	4	29	16	6	2	1	
Lyman	1	4	17	10	14	11	10	8	2				
McCook		2	5	10	17	8	10	12	3	3			
McPherson		1	5	6	8	16	20	28	17	5	1		
Marshall		1	5	13	5	14	6	22	5	4			
Meade	1	3	14	18	27	22	20	25	6	2	1		1
Mellette		1	4	4	9	8	5	14	4	2	2	2	
Miner		1	2	7	3	8	9	18	9				
Minnehaha	1		2	7	12	12	17	27	15	5	1	3	1
Moody			4	5	5	6	8	22	8	2			
Pennington			5	11	17	23	13	5	3	7		1	2
Perkins	2	5	13	14	21	13	15	16	3	4			2
Potter		1	6	12	8	8	2	5	1				
Roberts			2	9	10	22		35	9	10	4	3	
Sanborn*		1	6	7	5	6	13	13	2				
Shannon				2	1	1	1	5		1			3
Spink		7	14	21	25	23	14	22	2				
Stanley	2	7	7	3	4	3	4	2					
Sully		3	10	11	7	5	3	6					
Todd			1	1	8	5	6	16	7	4	4		1
Tripp	4	1	7	17	3	16	19	20	6	4	1		1
Turner			2	8	6	14	14	33	10	5	1		
Union			1	1	1	5	8	21	15	5	4	1	1
Walworth		2	1	1	7	7	8	10	4				
Washabaugh			3		6			12		1			1
Washington				1	3	2	2		1				
Yankton		1	4	1	8	8	7	22	11	4	3	2	
Ziebach	1		3	4	4	8	8	11	2				
Total for State	21	152	366	551	652	669	583	1086	408	160	65	30	30

[1] Report from the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

* Figures opposite counties represent number of schools in each classification.

Possible Reforms

There are at least three definite plans to consider in attacking the problem that the tables and figures show so clearly. The first and best known is the transportation of rural children from one district to another. If conditions are right, there is a possibility of considerable saving. The author discovered an area in South Dakota where two schools could easily transport to a third. The third district had a good two-room building with 28 enrolled, the former districts had schools with 10 and 11 enrolled, respectively. If all were transported to the one school, there would be a better enrollment per teacher, a more stimulating and satisfactory classroom situation, and improvement in the quality of instruction. This movement is already under way in South Dakota, but there must be a number of other districts that could reduce taxes in this same manner.

A second plan has been widely advocated, not only in South Dakota but throughout the United States—namely, the consolidation of school districts. It permits the abandonment of buildings, different sets of officers can be replaced by one set, and teachers may be eliminated. It is possible to decrease the average cost per pupil and to obtain better instructional service where consolidation is possible.

There is still a third possibility materially to reduce taxes, and that is through the adoption of what is known as the county unit system. It involves the abolition of numerous school boards and the substitution of a single board with not over five members. This body appoints the county superintendent, and together they administer the schools of the county. All property of the county would serve as a tax base for the entire school system. Examples of the successful adoption and operation of the county unit plan are to be found in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The three reforms mentioned above are not theoretical visions; they are now actually in operation. The first two are common enough, the third is less so, and somewhat difficult to institute. The author is not advocating them as a panacea for all educational ills, and there are localities in the western part of our state where none of them would serve to make conditions better. If all the small districts were taken care of under any or all of these plans, still many of the basic educational issues would remain owing to rapid social and economic change.

Effect of Social and Economic Changes on the Schools

In the past decade some tremendous population changes which are beginning to affect our schools have taken place: fewer marriages, late marriages, and small families. Besides the change in actual numbers, certain shifts in population have been quite pronounced, sufficiently so to affect our educational system to a marked degree. The large centers have attracted more people and the small centers have decreased in size. Economic developments such as an increase in efficiency in the case of both business and agriculture, the constant invention of large and more efficient machinery, the rapid increase and development of quick moving transportation; all those changes that the economists commonly impound under the heading of "Changes in the Arts" have mainly accounted for the shifts from the country to the town and the city. The small town no longer serves its hinterland. The speedy car and the improved highway draw populations into closer proximity. The former day's journey is now

Table 21.—Frequency Distribution of Pupils in Rural Schools in South Dakota, 1934
(Change in Size of Interval Occurs in the Eighth Class)

School Enrollment	Number of Schoolhouses
1 - 2	21
3 - 4	152
5 - 6	366
7 - 8	551
9 - 10	652
11 - 12	669
13 - 14	583
15 - 20	1086
21 - 25	408
26 - 30	160
31 - 35	65
36 - 40	30
40 -	30

Table 22.—Cumulative Distribution of Rural Schoolhouses on the Basis of Classroom Enrollment
(On a "more than" and "less than" basis)

School Enrollment	Schoolhouses in grade or below	Schoolhouses in grade or above
1 - 2	21	4773
3 - 4	173	4752
5 - 6	539	4600
7 - 8	1090	4234
9 - 10	1742	3683
11 - 12	2411	3031
13 - 14	2994	2362
15 - 20	4080	1779
21 - 25	4488	693
26 - 30	4648	285
31 - 35	4713	125
36 - 40	4743	60
40 -	4773	30

only an hour's trip. Some popualtion centers gain, others lose tremendously.

These changes of which we are all conscious and which appear to be progressing quite steadily, affect all our social and economic institutions. People and wealth are constantly moving from place to place. The old school district becomes a questionable unit from the standpoint of support and administration. The once populous school district now becomes the small district, the teacher faces one, two or three pupils—a most unstimulating and expensive situation—while in other districts some indebtedness must be incurred for additional building facilities. At present in South Dakota the federal government contemplates and is actually planning to move a portion of the population from sub-marginal areas into areas better able to support it. In the one area it will become necessary to close schools and consolidate districts; in the other there will be a problem of expanding existing school facilities, and probably furnishing new buildings and equipment.

To reorganize school districts sanely in this state calls for the highest grade of statesmanship and educational leadership. If our schools are to be economically operated and maintained at a relative high level of efficiency, all selfish interest must be set aside. Changes in organization necessarily affect personnel—teachers, school boards, trade centers, etc.; but our schools are not run for the primary purposes of permitting people to make a living. It is true that home and local initiative are highly desirable, but a district that cannot support itself should be subjected to change.

Any form of consolidation brings up taxation issues. In South Dakota the property tax must always be the mainstay of the state and local units, and the burden falls heavily upon farm real estate. Objections to large school districts would in part disappear if an equitable shift from the property tax could be made to some other form of tax. Every step that will reduce the number of districts is a step in the right direction, but the problem is not as simple as that.

In South Dakota the county school district unit may logically be considered as the next step in school district organization and certainly this would relieve the tax burden. But it does not necessarily mean that universal adoption of the county unit plan is to be recommended; again, the problem is more difficult than that. For example, notice the position of the highways in South Dakota; observe the marked variation in taxable resources. The principles to follow here are far from being definite. Certainly no school district should be created without a school population sufficiently large to warrant the establishment of a complete school organization that would include four years of high school work. No school district should be created that did not warrant the full-time services of a properly qualified full-time superintendent. No school district should be created without sufficient taxable resources to maintain an efficient educational program. School district boundaries should be flexible in order that they may be expanded or contracted to meet changing economic and social conditions.

APPENDIX

Interest Bearing Debts of Taxing Districts in the State of South Dakota as of December 31, 1932*

The following pages present certain facts and figures pertaining to the indebtedness and expenditures of taxing districts in accordance with Chapter 240, Session Laws of 1929.

A new feature has been added to this year's report by including a list of the incorporated towns and cities in the state with information showing their financial condition. It is our intention to continue the practice of adding to this report until it contains all information contemplated by the Act. Some of the data are difficult to secure, and no specific appropriation has ever been made to defray the expense of obtaining all of the valuable information which might properly be included herein.

The following table shows the totals obtained during the years that the report has been published:

	1932	1931	1930	1929
Township Debt	$ 170,004.96	$ 381,575.81	$ 553,897.28	$ 454,316.24
School District Debt	16,563,984.40	17,995,080.45	14,059,828.96	15,802,348.12
Town Debt	992,143.92	1,016,921.59	1,181,369.17	1,518,161.92
City Debt	6,168,470.00	8,553,719.34	8,236,960.90	8,857,544.60
County Debt	6,555,950.09	6,161,733.68	6,519,124.40	6,649,573.66

1. Data secured from the Division of Taxation.

COUNTY INDEBTEDNESS

BONDS ISSUED

COUNTIES	Funding	Building	Road	Bridge	Miscellaneous	Total Bonds	Sinking Fund Deducted	Net Bonded Indebtedness	Outstanding Warrants & Other Indebtedness	Total Net Indebtedness
Aurora	$ none	$	$	$	$	$ none	$	$ none	$	$ none
Beadle		220,000.00				220,000.00	84,043.84	135,956.16	none	135,956.16
Bennett	172,000.00					172,000.00	1,460.18	170,539.82	12,736.96	183,276.78
Bon Homme	none					none		none	3,196.28	3,196.28
Brookings	none					none		none		none
Brown					20,925.00	20,925.00		20,925.00	none	20,925.00
Brule	none					none		none		none
Buffalo	none					none		none	9,027.90	9,027.90
Butte	705,000.00					705,000.00	234,000.00	471,000.00	47,000.00	518,000.00
Campbell						none		none	1,400.00	1,400.00
Charles Mix		110,000.00				110,000.00	38,829.80	71,170.20		71,170.20
Clark	none					none		none		none
Clay						none		none		none
Codington		185,000.00				185,000.00		185,000.00	39,138.33	224,138.33
Corson	466,000.00			29,000.00		495,000.00	38,902.57	456,097.43	none	456,097.43
Custer	67,000.00					67,000.00		67,000.00	none	67,000.00
Davison						none		none		
Day						none	none	none	none	none
Deuel		55,000.00				55,000.00	22,941.72	32,058.25	none	32,058.25
Dewey	235,000.00			60,000.00		295,000.00	36,532.33	258,467.67	14,368.94	272,836.61
Douglas		38,000.00				38,000.00	659.15	37,340.85	none	37,340.85
Edmunds	35,000.00		35,000.00			70,000.00	4,000.00	66,000.00	10,000.00	76,000.00
Fall River	468,000.00					468,000.00	127,354.00	340,656.00	72,079.00	412,725.00
Fall River (Shannon, unorg.)										
Faulk						none	none	none	939.17	939.17
Grant						none		none	18,314.67	18,314.67
Gregory	80,000.00					80,000.00	4,000.00	76,000.00	none	76,000.00
Haakon		75,000.00				75,000.00	2,183.87	72,816.13	5,082.27	77,898.40
Hamlin		25,000.00				25,000.00	11,435.45	13,564.55		13,564.55
Hand						none		none	1,762.84	1,762.84
Hanson	none					none		none		none
Harding	135,000.00					135,000.00	59,189.38	75,810.62	none	75,810.62
Hughes	17,000.00					17,000.00	2,327.33	14,672.67	none	14,672.67
Hutchinson	none					none		none		none
Hyde						none		none	none	none
Jackson	204,000.00			10,000.00		214,000.00	10,310.43	203,689.57	495.71	204,185.28
Jackson (Washabaugh, unorg.)										

(Continued on next page)

COUNTY INDEBTEDNESS (Continued)

BONDS ISSUED

COUNTIES	Funding	Building	Road	Bridge	Miscellaneous	Total Bonds	Sinking Fund Deducted	Net Bonded Indebtedness	Outstanding Warrants & Other Indebtedness	Total Net Indebtedness
Jerauld						none	none	none	33,803.05	33,803.05
Jones	none					none	none	none	3,947.46	3,947.46
Kingsbury						none		none	none	none
Lake						none		none	none	none
Lawrence	625,000.00					625,000.00	45,000.00	580,000.00	2,146.04	582,146.04
Lincoln						none		none	none	none
Lyman		85,000.00		18,000.00		103,000.00	none	103,000.00	64,577.96	167,577.96
McCook						none		none	none	none
McPherson						none		none	none	none
Marshall		5,000.00				5,000.00	748.79	4,215.21	42,432.28	46,647.49
Meade						none		none	240,611.01	240,611.01
Mellette						none		none	344,320.00	344,320.00
Miner	none					none		none	none	none
Minnehaha						none		none	none	none
Moody		10,000.00				10,000.00	none	10,000.00	3,230.00	13,230.00
Pennington	494,000.00	500,000.00				994,000.00	none	994,000.00	86,036.01	1,080,036.01
Pennington (Washington, unorg.)						none	none	none	14,808.15	14,808.15
Perkins	259,000.00					259,000.00		259,000.00	124,845.22	383,845.22
Potter		3,000.00				3,000.00	970.50	2,029.50	none	2,029.50
Roberts						none		none	6,141.12	6,141.12
Sanborn						none		none	none	none
Spink	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none
Stanley	204,000.00					204,000.00	none	204,000.00	none	204,000.00
Stanley (Armstrong, unorg.)										
Sully	none								16,695.45	16,695.45
Tripp	140,000.00	170,000.00				310,000.00	70,000.00	240,000.00	none	240,000.00
Tripp (Todd, unorg.)										
Turner						none		none	16,848.70	16,848.70
Union						none		none	180.76	180.76
Walworth				55,000.00		55,000.00	55,000.00	none	none	none
Yankton					600.00	600.00	none	600.00	none	600.00
Ziebach	29,000.00	55,000.00		13,000.00		97,000.00	22,447.87	74,552.13	79,633.05	154,185.18
Totals	$4,335,000.00	$1,536,000.00	$35,000.00	$185,000.00	$21,525.00	$6,112,525.00	$872,373.24	$5,240,151.76	$1,315,798.33	$6,555,950.09

COUNTIES	TOWNSHIPS			SCHOOLS		
	Bonds	Outstanding Warrants in Excess of Funds	Total Net debtedness	Bonds	Outstanding Warrants in Excess of Funds	Total Net Indebtedness
Aurora	$	$ 3,921.66	$ 3,921.66	$ 85,400.00	$ 29,187.68	$ 114,587.68
Beadle	none	5,565.89	5,565.89	439,200.00	64,529.04	503,729.04
Bennett	none	none	none	2,200.00	86,684.85	88,884.18
Bon Homme	none	none	none	152,500.00	36,069.16	188,569.16
Brookings	none	869.07	869.07	274,850.00	3,452.59	278,302.59
Brown				500,560.00	15,555.81	516,115.81
Brule		1,672.22	1,672.22	92,840.00	26,174.66	119,014.66
Buffalo	none	none	none	15,156.75	15,075,81	30,232.56
Butte	none	8,910.38	8,910.38	278,900.00	211,910.91	490,810.91
Campbell	none	none	none	49,300.00	13,770.11	63,070.11
Charles Mix	none	9,204.72	9,204.72	280,200.00	43,866.43	324,066.43
Clark	none	3,212.68	3,212.68	168,150.00	8,145.85	176,295.85
Clay	none	200.00	200.00	156,400.00	24,030.27	180,430.27
Codington	none	399.77	399.77	324,100.00	11,910.71	336,010.71
Corson	3,342.70	4,613,83	7,956.53	252,208.66	244,192.92	496,401.58
Custer				40,000.00	29,608.54	69,608.54
Davison				249,300.00	16.457.30	265,757.30
Day	2,000.00	363.39	2,363.39	250,900.00	7,897.95	258,797.95
Deuel	none	none	none	144,200.00	8,576.30	152,776.30
Dewey	none	1,998.71	1,998.71	177,000.00	326,652.89	503,652.89
Douglas	none	2,175.76	2,175.76	97,000.00	12,650.52	109,650.52
Edmunds	none	529.60	529.60	122,900.00	6,526.48	129,426.48
Fall River	none	2,640.85	2,640.85	211,190.00	106,686.85	317,876.85
Fall River (Shannon, unorg.)					11,181.50	11,181.50
Faulk	none	7,272.41	7,272.41	196,800.00	25,119.33	221,919.33
Grant	none	none	none	62,500.00	4,560.21	67,060.21
Gregory				383,000.00	184,527.38	567,527.38
Haakon	none	427.84	427.84	18,400.00	41,031.24	59,431.24
Hamlin		1,721.79	1,721.79	179,250.00	12,160.12	191,410.12
Hand	none	3,769.78	3,769.78	94,300.00	14,342.91	108,642.91
Hanson	none	173.35	173.35	69,800.00	8,972.95	78,772.95
Harding		1,182.33	1,182.33	23,500.00	76,407.06	99,907,06
Hughes	none	1,244.71	1,244.71	263,100.00	53.790.14	316,890.14
Hutchinson		2,019.00	2,019.00	220,241.70	13,969.04	234,210.74
Hyde	none	none	none	94,700.00	1,971.99	96,671.99
Jackson	1,850.00	3,459.65	5,309.65	24,800.00	104,746.82	129,546.82
Jackson (Washabaugh, nuorg.)				20,000.00	102,550.37	122,550.37
Jerauld		1,103.90	1,103.90	169,000.00	4,552.00	173,552.06
Jones	none	15.725.87	15.725.87	72,700.00	37,882.90	110.582.90
Kingsbury	none	2,509.71	2,509.71	316,800.00	8,153.93	324,953.93
Lake	none	5,268.03	5,268.03	551,100.00	65,278.11	616,378.11
Lawrence	none	none	none	357,450.00	49,563.09	407,013.09
Lincoln	14,500.00	713.50	15,213.50	202,400.00	17,903.66	220,303.66
Lyman	220.00	5,801.64	6,021.64	120,800.00	48,275.73	169,075.73
McCook	none	none	none	298,500.00	29,299.02	327,799.02
McPherson	2,500.00	219.40	2,719.40	85,090.00	18,518.64	103,608.64
Marshall	none	841.69	841.69	197,870.00	43,476.09	241.346.09
Meade				114,850.00	97,397.15	212.247.15
Mellette		11,173.84	11,173.84	11,200.00	171,057.82	182.257.82
Miner	500.00	none	500.00	103,750.00	11,695.26	115,445.26
Minnehaha		5,775.97	5,775.97	1,677,500.00	11,830.15	1,689,330.15
Moody	none	none	none	298,350.00	9,151.13	307,501.13
Pennington	852.00	11,436.19	12,289.04	478,100.00	419,988.56	898,088.56
Pennington (Washington, unorg.)	no report				9.169.05	9,169.05
Perkins				90,350.00	135.470.57	225,820.57
Potter	none	none	none	106,000.00	12.769.35	118,769.35
Roberts				77,450.00	28,905.62	106.355.62
Sanborn				112.900.00	21,440.95	134,340.95
Spink	none	965.21	965.21	204.000.00	10,946.06	214,946.06
Stanley	none	3,445.23	3,445.23	32,750.00	119,693.54	152,443.54
Stanley (Armstrong, unorg)						
Sully	none			81,200.00	20,081.33	101,281.33
Tripp	none	6,875.84	6,875.84	231,950.00	148,296.95	380,246.95
Tripp, (Todd, unorg)				29.500.00	136.415.89	165,915.89
Turner	none	3,650.00	3,650.00	89.000.00	23.401.06	112,401.06
Union	none	none	none	115,300.00	18.322.86	133,622.86
Walworth	none	none	none	243,400.00	50,132.30	293,532.30
Yankton	none	1,184.00	1,184.00	46,500.00	6,786.00	53.286.00
Ziebach	no report			82.913.77	159,664.73	242,578.50
Totals	$25,765.55	$144,239.41	$170,004.96	$12,613,520.88	$3,950,466.52	$16,563,984.40

COUNTIES	TOWNS			CITIES		
	Bonds	Outstanding Warrants in Excess of Funds	Total Net Indebtedness	Bonds	Outstanding Warrants in Excess of Funds	Total Net Indebtedness
Aurora	$ 3,364.34	$ 785.92	$ 4,150.26	$ 40,000.00	5	$ 40,000.00
Beadle	35,029.00	none	35,029.00	281,597.34	1,522.60	283,119.34
Bennett	none	none	none		1,900.00	1,900.00
Bon Homme				195,463.67	none	195,463.67
Brookings	5,000.00	none	5,000.00	32,515.00	none	32,515.00
Brown	no report			no report		
Brule	none	none	none	91,143.22	13,500.00	104,643.22
Buffalo	none	none	none	none	none	
Butte	7,000.00	none	7,000.00	246,000.00	none	246,000.00
Campbell	none	none	none	none	none	none
Charles Mix	24,500.00	311.25	24,811.25	97,846.34	32,367.69	130,214.03
Clark	36,632.38	416.58	37,048.96	26,578.10	62.40	26,640.50
Clay	20,657.71	none	20,657.71	6,000.00	none	6,000.00
Codington	10,500.00	5,316.91	15,816.91	53,891.51	none	53,891.51
Corson	639.93	16,294.30	16,934.23	17,560.43	494.50	18,054.93
Custer	none	none	none	77,766.17	none	77,766.17
Davison	no report			623,765.30	14,527.57	638,292.87
Day	29,612.36	570.74	30,183.10	14,000.00	none	14,000.00
Deuel	12,700.00	none	12,700.00	13,767.90	none	13,767.90
Dewey	none	24,953.19	24,953.19	52,000.00	18,469.05	70,469.05
Douglas	12,137.00		12,137.00	38,739.00	3,100.00	41,839.00
Edmunds	1,414.14		1,414.14	51,078.58	none	51,078.58
Fall River	18,800.00	185.44	18,985.44	202,546.00	16,963.99	219.509.99
Fall River (Shannon, unorg.)						
Faulk	92,200.00	none	92,200.00	12,500.00	none	12,500.00
Grant	13,600.00	none	13,600.00	148,798.05	none	148,798.05
Gregroy	no report					
Haakon	20,383.53	148.01	20,531.54	20,820.09	3,058.00	23,878.00
Hamlin	467.95	none	467.95	63,475.58	500.00	63,975.58
Hand	40,000.00	1,381.05	41,381.05	48,860.22	598.94	49,459.16
Hanson	1,200.00		1,200.00	22,730.00	2,139.99	24,869.99
Harding	none	602.84	602.84	none	none	none
Hughes	18,350.01	7,123.97	25,473.98	328,048.41	91,780.10	419,828.51
Hutchinson	none	none	none	79,164.57	6,008.69	85,173.26
Hyde	none	none	none	1,156.62	none	1,156.62
Jackson	56,724.61	33,506.33	90,230.94	none	none	none
Jackson (Washabaugh, nuorg.)						
Jerauld	16,900.00	none	16,900.00	83,500.00		83,500.00
Jones	1,000.00	4,511.89	5,511.89	38,000.00	6,597.00	44,597.00
Kingsbury	36,392.00		36,392.00	181,092.69		181,092.69
Lake	47,151.24	none	47,151.24	196,127.13	none	196,127.13
Lawrence	none	none	none	17,000.00	23,459.46	40,459.46
Lincoln	31,349.25	1,131.47	32,480.72	148,074.60	none	148,074.60
Lyman	61,313.98	6,349.65	67,663.63	none	none	none
McCook	no report			no report		
McPherson	22,500.00	2,000.00	24,500.00	92,588.52	6,596.71	99,185.23
Marshall	none	none	none	105,279.39	12,356.12	117,635.51
Meade	no report			no report		
Mellette	none	3,251.61	3,251.61	none	none	none
Miner	2,388.52	18.10	2,406.62	3,495.00	none	3,495.00
Minnehaha	17,490.54	none	17,490.54	781,827.67	16,587.27	798,414.94
Moody	1,078.76	none	1,078.76	40,948.44	1,000.00	41,948.44
Pennington	49,957.64	20,052.05	70,009.69	296,005.00	none	296,005.00
Pennington (Washington, unorg.)						
Perkins	no report			no report		
Potter	17,801.40	750.00	18,551.40	14,681.10	none	14,681.10
Roberts	40,980.00	3,193.07	44,173.07	39,526.71		39,526.71
Sanborn	11,500.00	none	11,500.00	78,500.00	none	78,500.00
Spink	15,250.00	350.00	15,600.00	49,107.85	none	49,107.85
Stanley	none			33,772.38	40,635.68	74,408.06
Stanley (Armstrong, unorg)						
Sully	8,048.74	none	8,048.74	16,797.03	966.51	17,763.54
Tripp	7,000.00	3,945.52	10,945.52	181,459.97	30,414.29	211,874.26
Tripp (Todd, unorg)						
Turner	19,064.34	800.00	19,864.34	128,637.26	15,759.52	144,396.78
Union	none	none	none	109,984.11	1,289.88	111,273.99
Walworth	3,613.18	none	3,613.18	106,477.14	646.75	107,123.89
Yankton	26,674.55	none	26,674.55	214,000.00	none	214,000.00
Ziebach	no report			none		
Totals	$898,367.10	$137,949.89	$1,036,316.99	$5,844,694.00	$363,302.71	$6,207,996.71

CITY AND TOWN INDEBTEDNESS

Statement Showing Bonded Indebtedness, Outstanding Warrants in Excess of Funds on Hand December 31, 1932

Name of City or Town	Population, 1930	Net Bonded Indebtedness	Outstanding Warrants In Excess of Funds on Hand	Total Indebtedness	Taxable Value of Real and Personal Property, 1932	Per Cent of Indebtedness to Taxable Value
Aberdeen	16,465	$262,769.40	$52,603.63	$315,373.03	$16,779,062.00	1.88
Agar	200	8,048.74	none	8,048.00	167,305.00	4.81
Akaska	169	3,613.18	none	3,613.18	114,072.00	3.10
Albee	94	none	none	none	101,313.00	none
Alcester	460	5,687.34	1,298.88	6,986.22	412,054.00	1.70
Alexandria	688	none	none	none	629,497.00	none
Alpena	499	no report			450,862.00	
Altamont	123	no report			123,762.00	
Andover	322	13,425.00	570.74	13,995.74	258,104.00	5.42
Ardmore	261	18,800.00	none	18,800.00	205,784.00	9.13
Arlington	1,020	7,000.00	none	7,000.00	726,782.00	.96
Armour	1,009	31,739.00	none	31,739.00	621,428.00	5.11
Artesian	556	34,500.00	none	34,500.00	369,083.00	9.34
Ashton	314	18,000.00	none	18,000.00	332,976.00	5.41
Astoria	231	7,400.00	none	7,400.00	154,385.00	4.79
Aurora	166	no report			251,787.00	
Avon	670	36,500.00	none	36,500.00	521,129.00	7.00
Badger	163	9,000.00	none	9,000.00	183,623.00	4.90
Baltic	272	5,393.97	none	5,393.97	216,917.00	2.49
Bancroft	155	9,500.00	none	9,500.00	100,629.00	9.45
Belle Fourche	2,032	211,000.00	none	211,000.00	1,674,751.00	12.60
Belvidere	214	21,724.61	none	21,724.61	167,383.00	12.98
Beresford	1,460	106,064.77	none	106,064.77	1,059,449.00	10.01
Big Stone	617	9,500.00	none	9,500.00	513,508.00	1.86
Blunt	477	14,127.44	none	14,127.44	242,720.00	5.82
Bonesteel	564	no report			374,684.00	
Bowdle	773	48,000.00	none	48,000.00	519,604.00	9.24
Bradley	291	no report			268,285.00	
Brandt	265	no report			222,234.00	
Brentford	174	none	350.00	350.00	140,068.00	.25
Bridgewater	762	8,000.00	none	8,000.00	567,141.00	1.41
Bristol	666	none	none	none	542,519.00	none
Britton	1,312	40,285.59	8,000.00	48,285.59	993,831.00	4.86
Broadland	102	2,000.00	none	2,000.00	113,780.00	1.76
Brookings	4,376	no report			4,638,681.00	
Bruce	371	no report			301,318.00	
Bryant	656	25,000.00	none	25,000.00	445,081.00	5.62
Buffalo Gap	183	1,000.00	none	1,000.00	140,316.00	.71
Burke	605	no report			454,193.00	
Bushnell	134	no report			100,872.00	
Butler	184	none	none	none	121,527.00	none
Camp Crook	161	none	602.84	602.84	68,131.00	.89
Canistota	590	50,000.00	none	50,000.00	461,958.00	10.64
Canova	364	2,388.52	18.10	2,406.62	276,464.00	.87
Canton	2,270	66,156.03	none	66,156.03	2,059,670.00	3.21
Carter	89	no report			24,978.00	
Carthage	590	3,495.00	none	3,495.00	453,685.00	.77
Castlewood	500	11,000.00	none	11,000.00	469,970.00	2.34
Cavour	202	9,563.00	none	9,563.00	159,359.00	6.01
Centerville	1,169	9,885.00	none	9,855.00	795,256.00	1.24
Central City	198	none	none	none	70,938.00	none
Chamberlain	1,364	37,943.22	none	37,943.22	1,447,831.00	2.62
Chancellor	267	5,005.00	none	5,005.00	250,182.00	2.03
Chelsea	84	no report			84,820.00	
Claire City	193	3,243.80	none	3,243.80	113,856.00	.28
Claremont	285	no report			244,385.00	
Clark	1,290	no report			1,194,904.00	
Clear Lake	834	12,416.94	none	12,416.94	707,467.00	17.55
Coleman	488	5,976.04	none	5,976.04	297,930.00	2.00
Colome	599	65,897.75	none	65,897.75	425,693.00	.15
Colton	575	none	none	none	481,925.00	none
Columbia	251	no report			246,640.00	
Conde	431	29,643.00	none	29,643.00	413,485.00	7.17
Canova	152	no report			112,335.00	
Corsica	516	12,137.00	none	12,137.00	341,705.00	3.55
Cottonwood	191	none	6,816.91	6,816.91	122,992.00	5.54
Cresbard	358	27,000.00	none	27,000.00	259,920.00	10.39
Custer	1,203	68,539.08	9,227.09	77,766.17	691,110.00	11.25
Dallas	423	no report			223,597.00	
Dante	132	none	311.25	311.25	97,119.00	.32
Davis	209	10,739.34	none	10,739.34	175,662.00	6.12
Deadwood	2,559	none	none	none	3,110,448.00	none
Dell Rapids	1,657	27,300.51	8,811.33	36,111.84	1,121,122.00	3.22
Delmont	472	5,000.00	3,100.00	8,100.00	330,534.00	2.45
DeSmet	1,017	24,729.06	none	24,729.06	806,038.00	3.07

CITY AND TOWN INDEBTEDNESS—Continued

Statement Showing Bonded Indebtedness, Outstanding Warrants in Excess of Funds on Hand December 31, 1032

Name of City or Town	Population, 1930	Net Bonded Indebtedness	Outstanding Warrants In Excess of Funds on Hand	Total Indebtedness	Taxable Value of Real and Personal Property, 1932	Per Cent of Indebtedness to Taxable Value
Doland	538	4,388.21	none	4,388.21	479,245.00	.92
Dolton	124	none	800.00	800.00	122,239.00	.65
Draper	169	1,000.00	4,511.89	5,511.89	118,785.00	4.64
Dupree	365	no report			214,791.00	
Eagle Butte	387	none	3,840.65	3,840.65	116,384.00	3.30
Eden	150	none	none	none	119,786.00	none
Edgemont	1,103	43,443.00	5,191.30	48,634.30	836,552.00	5.81
Egan	419	none	none	none	382,112.00	none
Elk Point	1,294	32,116.12	none	32,116.12	835,928.00	3.84
Elkton	856	no report			704,504.00	
Emery	542	22,730.00	2,139.99	24,869.99	543,175.00	4.58
Erwin	205	no report			137,185.00	
Esmond	116	12,392.00	none	12,392.00	102,377.00	12.10
Estelline	488	no report			417,801.00	
Ethan	369	no report			270,249.00	
Eureka	1,308	23,000.00	none	23,000.00	584,891.00	3.93
Fairburn	91	no report			90,794.00	
Fairfax	430	no report			246,369.00	
Fairview	156	none	none	none	83,423.00	none
Faith	607	no report			444,220.00	
Farmer	132	1,200.00	none	1,200.00	141,943.00	.86
Faulkton	739	12,500.00	none	12.500.00	629,199.00	1.99
Flandreau	1,934	35,972.40	1,000.00	36,972.40	1,782,851.00	2.07
Florence	298	10,500.00	5,316.91	15,816.91	230,909.00	6.85
Fort Pierre	683	33,772.38	40,635.68	74,408.06	644,482.00	11.55
Frankfort	367	4,846.96	none	4,846.96	316.408.00	
Frederick	461	no report			368,246.00	
Freeman	987	none	none	none	716,870.00	none
Fruitdale	113	none	none	none	52,327.00	none
Fulton	171	none	none	none	189,316.00	none
Garden City	257	no report			158.536.00	
Garretson	655	25,123.93	none	25,123.93	686,534.00	3.66
Gary	543	1,350.96	none	1,350.96	369,564.00	.34
Gayville	261	8.500.00	none	8,500.00	194,960.00	4.36
Geddes	680	49,000.00	4,579.17	53,579.17	517,566.00	10.35
Gettysburg	1,400	14,681.10	none	14,681.10	899,900.00	1.63
Glenham	187	no report			165,852.00	
Goodwin	149	no report			123,708.00	
Gregory	1,034	no report			823,726.00	
Grenville	247	6,500.00	none	6,500.00	95,131.00	6.83
Groton	1.009				854,812.00	
Harrisburg	205	14,000.00	1,329.07	15,329.07	162,251.00	9.45
Harrold	309	18,350.01	7,123.97	25,473.98	244,560.00	10.42
Hartford	628	20,000.00	none	20,000.00	478.105.00	4.18
Hayti	344	467.95	none	467.95	247,165.00	.19
Hazel	191	no report			170,559.00	
Hecla	558	no report			319,847.00	
Henry	358	none	none	none	290,852.00	none
Hermosa	128	no report			87,685.00	
Herreid	544	none	none	none	342,204.00	none
Herrick	339	no report			93,189.00	
Hetland	250	5,500.00	none	5,500.00	166,798.00	3.30
Highmore	1,034	1,156.62	none	1,156.62	700,899.00	.17
Hillsview	101	none	none	none	78,795.00	none
Hitchcock	334	9,500.00	none	9,500.00	274,762.00	3.46
Hosmer	524	2,052.58	none	2 052.58	334,798.00	.61
Hot Springs	2,908	159,103.00	11,772.69	170,875.69	1,853,949.00	9.22
Hoven	386	5,950.00	none	5,950.00	211,128.00	2.82
Howard	1,224	none	none	none	715,134.00	none
Hudson	478	17,000.00	none	17,000.00	366,699.00	4.64
Humboldt	428	11,000.00	none	11,000.00	309 621.00	3.55
Hurley	586	16,831.68	none	16,831.68	404,310.00	4.16
Huron	10,946	198,115.94	none	198,115.94	11,656,931.00	1.70
Interior	144	none	3,092.75	3,092.75	101.406.00	3.05
Ipswich	913	1,026.50	none	1,026.50	735,032.00	.14
Irene	491	3,640.00	none	3,640.00	315.377.00	1.15
Iroquois	531	61,833.22	none	61,833.22	382.872.00	16.51
Isabel	420	none	21,112.54	21,112.54	204.688.00	10.31
Java	529	no report			317,346.00	
Jefferson	426	none	none	none	259,905.00	none
Kadoka	385	35,000.00	23,596.67	58,596.67	326 284.00	17.86
Kennebec	349	no report			251,047.00	
Kimball	1,111	53,200.00	13,500.00	66.700.00	765,145.00	8.72
Labolt	126	2,750.00	none	2,750.00	108,639.00	2.53

CITY AND TOWN INDEBTEDNESS—Continued

Statement Showing Bonded Indebtedness, Outstanding Warrants in Excess of Funds on Hand December 31, 1032

Name of City or Town	Population, 1930	Net Bonded Indebtedness	Outstanding Warrants In Excess of Funds on Hand	Total Indebtedness	Taxable Value of Real and Personal Property, 1932	Per Cent of Indebtedness to Taxable Value
Lake Andes	1,052	13,404.00	7,762.79	21,166.79	533,199.00	3.97
Lake City	162	none	none	none	90,247.00	none
Lake Norden	459	28,000.00	500.00	28,500.00	282,327.00	10.09
Lake Preston	944	50,765.41	none	50,765.41	676,655.00	7.50
Lane	187	no report			243,083.00	
Langford	444	8,693.80	none	8,693.80	357,588.00	2.43
LaPlant	125	none	none	none	60,088.00	none
Lead	5,733	none	none	none	8,169,577.00	none
Lebanon	334	4,601.40	none	4,601.40	180,587.00	2.55
Lemmon	1,508	no report			979,040.00	
Lennox	1,113	8,596.13			730,161.00	
Leola	724	69,588.52	6,596.71	76,185.23	315,790.00	24.13
Lesterville	228	5,770.64	none	5,770.64	229,496.00	2.51
Letcher	414	11,500.00	none	11,500.00	227,262.00	5.06
Lily	135	100.00	none	100.00	101,255.00	.10
Lowry	89	no report			57,791.00	
Loyalton	116	no report			63,373.00	
McIntosh	663	9,085.43	494.50	9,579.93	475,668.00	2.01
McLaughlin	678	8,475.00	none	8,475.00	415,778.00	2.04
Madison	4,289	196,127.13	none	196,127.13	3,950,852.00	4.97
Marion	704	52,950.58	1,500.00	54,450.58	678,703.00	8.02
Martin	720	none	1,900.00	1,900.00	239,674.00	.79
Marvin	150	5,000.00	none	5,000.00	121,602.00	23.15
Meckling	114	4,000.00	none	4,000.00	65,716.00	6.09
Mellette	363	none	none	none	350,516.00	none
Menno	909	35,002.04	6,008.69	41,010.73	661,350.00	6.20
Midland	262	20,383.53	148.01	20,531.54	251,876.00	8.15
Milbank	2,389	139,298.05	none	139,298.05	1,996,240.00	6.98
Miller	1,447	48,860.22	598.94	49,459.16	1,044,629.00	.47
Mission Hill	184	9,403.71	none	9,403.71	187,595.00	5.01
Mitchell	10,942	623,765.30	14,527.57	638,292.87	10,265,909.00	
Mobridge	3,464	85,875.00	646.75	86,521.75	2,591,548.00	3.34
Monroe	221	1,500.00	none	1,500.00	177,693.00	
Montrose	471	8,750.00	none	8,750.00	281,808.00	3.10
Morristown	268	639.93	16,294.30	16,934.23	177,091.00	.84
Mound City	165	none	none	none	75,244.00	none
Mount Vernon	489	no report			429,986.00	
Murdo	619	38,000.00	6,597.00	44,597.00	434,336.00	10.27
Naples	89	no report			89,602.00	
Newark	168	none	none	none	106 618.00	none
New Effington	337	700.00	none	700.00	191,212.00	.04
Newell	547	35,000.00	none	35,000.00	284,670.00	12.29
New Underwood	311	none	9,798.46	9,798.46	179,494.00	5.46
Nisland	187	7,000.00	none	7,000.00	131,848.00	5.31
Northville	260	none	none	none	200,938.00	none
Nunda	163	5,000.00	none	5,000.00	136,496.00	3.66
Oacoma	167	none	4,937.27	4,937.27	151,693.00	3.25
Oelrichs	206	none	185.44	185.44	132,303.00	.14
Oldham	419	no report			301,229.00	
Olivet	184	none	none	none	74,124.00	none
Onaka	164	6,700.00	none	6,700.00	76,460.00	8.76
Onida	636	16,797.03	966.51	17,763.54	401,545.00	4.42
Orient	302	21,000.00	none	21,000.00	204,484.00	10.27
Ortley	157	5,500.00	565.00	6,065.00	164,180.00	.37
Parker	1,229	47,000.00	9,000.00	56,000.00	892,640.00	6.27
Parkston	1,336	34,000.00	none	34,000.00	915,336.00	3.71
Peever	265	3,345.44	328.07	3,673.51	155.450.00	.24
Philip	786	20,820.00	3,058.00	23,878.00	734,837.00	3.25
Pierpont	379	3,135.36	none	3,135.36	252,520.00	1.24
Pierre	3,659	313,920.97	91,780.10	405,701.07	4,255,288.00	9.53
Plankinton	758	none	none	none	537,946.00	none
Platte	1,207	20,000.00	2,000.00	22,000.00	853,483.00	2.58
Pollock	481	none	none	none	340.642.00	none
Presho	487	57,649.38	none	57,649.38	380,765.00	15.14
Pukwana	307	no report			321,756.00	
Quinn	141	15,960.59			115,730.00	17.41
Ramona	279	4,730.00	none	4,730.00	191,555.00	2.47
Rapid City	10,404	296,005.00	none	296,005.00	19,563,768.00	1.51
Ravina	157	24,500.00	none	24,500.00	99,681.00	24.58
Raymond	200	no report			230.216.00	
Redfield	2,664	none	none	none	2,078,416.00	none
Ree Heights	339	28,000.00	none	28,000.00	174,334.00	1.61
Reliance	287	4,664.60	1,412.38	6,076.98	214,972.00	2.83
Revillo	274	3,450.00	none	3,450.00	184,942.00	1.87
Rockham	288	30.500.00	none	30,500.00	192,330.00	15.86

CITY AND TOWN INDEBTEDNESS—Continued

Statement Showing Bonded Indebtedness, Outstanding Warrants in Excess of Funds on Hand December 31, 1032

Name of City or Town	Population, 1930	Net Bonded Indebtedness	Outstanding Warrants In Excess of Funds on Hand	Total Indebtedness	Taxable Value of Real and Personal Property, 1932	Per Cent of Indebtedness to Taxable Value
Roscoe	491	1,414.14	none	1,414.14	298,128.00	.47
Rosholt	327	8,000.00	none	8,000.00	227,157.00	.35
Roslyn	237	6,452.00	none	6,452.00	188,604.00	3.42
Roswell	116	no report			153,468.00	
St. Lawrence	413	12,000.00	1,381.05	13,381.05	228,248.00	5.86
Salem	1,115	16,610.00	none	16,610.00	969,893.00	1.71
Selby	548	21,248.87	none	21,248.87	896,498.00	4.02
Scotland	1,163	36,014.45	none	16,610.00	440,136.00	4.83
Seneca	318	7,000.00	none	7,000.00	184,168.00	3.80
Sherman	192	1,096.57	none	1,096.57	136,688.00	.80
Sinai	217	no report			166,263.00	
Sioux Falls	33,362	709,403.23	7,775.94	717,179.17	45,982,940.00	1.56
Sisseton	1,569	14,468.09	none	14,468.09	1,000,406.00	.13
South Shore	322	none	none	none	167,988.00	none
South Sioux Falls	306	none	none	none	673,370.00	none
Spearfish	1,577	17,000.00	23,459.46	40,459.46	1,257,542.00	3.22
Spencer	561	30,000.00	none	30,000.00	425,811.00	7.05
Springfield	881	23,452.23	none	23,452.23	388,410.00	6.04
Stickney	412	3,364.34	785.92	4,150.26	310,286.00	1.34
Stockholm	130	no report			86,898.00	
Strandburg	113	none	none	none	71,347.00	
Stratford	202	no report			210,647.00	
Sturgis	1,747	no report			349,051.00	
Summit	431	17,500.00	none	17,500.00	313,633.00	.56
Tabor	307	none	none	none	319,336.00	none
Tea	148	1,000.00	none	1,000.00	152,548.00	.66
Timber Lake	572	52,000.00	18,469.05	70,469.05	281,930.00	25.00
Tolstoy	210	7,250.00	750.00	8,000.00	128,855.00	6.21
Toronto	341	5,300.00	none	5,300.00	273,747.00	1.94
Trent	256	none	none	none	157,864.00	none
Tripp	939	10,162.53	none	10,162.53	696,561.00	1.46
Tulare	305	9,250.00	none	9,250.00	181,305.00	5.10
Turton	323	6,000.00	none	6,000.00	120,038.00	5.00
Twin Brooks	138	2,400.00	none	2,400.00	162,605.00	1.48
Tyndall	1,287	99,496.99	none	99,496.99	1,292,293.00	7.70
Utica	98	3,000.00	none	3,000.00	123,649.00	2.43
Valley Springs	393	none	none	none	262,567.00	none
Veblen	520	56,300.00	4,356.12	60,656.12	305,459.00	19.86
Verdun	69	no report			61,251.00	
Vermillion	2,850	6,000.00	none	6,000.00	2,752,344.00	.28
Viborg	719	2,000.00	5,259.52	7,259.52	423,111.00	1.72
Vienna	443	no report			337,116.00	
Vilas	106	none	none	none	209,552.00	none
Virgil	166	9,966.00	none	9,966.00	155,568.00	6.41
Volga	604	no report			382,750.00	
Volin	283	none	none	none	179,471.00	none
Wagner	1,420	15,422.33	18,025.73	33,448.06	810,993.00	4.12
Wakonda	453	14,837.11	none	14,837.11	403,712.00	3.68
Wall	326	16,997.05	267.81	17,264.86	180,623.00	9.56
Wallace	189	no report			164,528.00	
Ward	90	1,078.76	none	1,078.76	82,152.00	1.31
Watertown	10,214	53,891.51	none	53,891.51	9,322,905.00	.58
Waubay	903	14,000.00	none	14,000.00	690,074.00	2.03
Webster	1,805	none	none	none	1,670,443.00	none
Wentworth	310	3,000.00	none	3,000.00	215,335.00	1.39
Wessington (Beadle)	681	46,000.00	1,522.60	47,522.60	391,543.00	12.14
Wessington Springs	1,401	no report			1,122,672.00	
Wetonka	111	22,500.00	2,000.00	24,500.00	72,687.00	33.71
White	533	no report			437,820.00	
White Lake	530	40,000.00	none	40,000.00	436,688.00	9.16
White River	471	none	790.00	790.00	169,411.00	.47
White Rock	281	none	2,300.00	2,300.00	158,400.00	.15
Whitewood	392	none	none	none	234,348.00	none
Willow Lake	514	no report			388,976.00	
Wilmot	566	25,058.62	none	25,058.62	385,173.00	.65
Winfred	290	34,421.24	none	34,421.24	241,243.00	14.27
Winner	2,220	115,562.22	30,414.29	145,976.51	112,623.00	9.74
Witten	307	7,000.00	3,945.52	10,945.52	1,499,277.00	9.72
Wolsey	455	6,246.40	none	6,246.40	434,087.00	1.44
Wood	257	none	2,461.61		139,495.00	
Woonsocket	1,108	53,000.00	none	53,000.00	848,143.00	6.25
Worthing	262	2,666.66	none	2,666.66	183,800.00	1.45
Yale	190	4,000.00	none	4,000.00	128,678.00	3.11
Yankton	6,072	214,000.00	none	214,000.00	6,312,509.00	3.39